

# Snippets From KeyCom

December 2025

## Transformation

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Some of the most controversial and divisive subjects in recent years have been immigration and acculturation. Culture extends to far more than the type of clothing people wear and the kind of food they eat. At its core, a culture consists of a set of shared values and ways of thinking.

With that in mind, it should be obvious that when someone from one culture moves to a different one, clashes are inevitable – particularly if that person does not wish to acculturate to his new environment. Even when a person sincerely does wish to acculturate, the process is difficult. Often it takes at least two generations for a family to fully integrate.

Think what that means in terms of evangelism. When we proclaim the Gospel, we are asking people to change their allegiance from the world to the Kingdom of Christ. That means we are asking them to exchange their value system and ways of thinking – to acculturate to their new country. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2 NIV)

The problem is that nobody has two or three generations to acculturate to Christ’s Kingdom. Salvation is an individual matter. The needed transformation must take place in every one of our hearts. Frankly, it is beyond our ability. Unless God transforms us, it won’t happen. The process is very similar to what God said to the exiles in Babylon, “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” (Ezekiel 36:24-27 NIV)

Notice that God makes the transformation by means of His Spirit. The Apostle Paul puts it this way, “Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.” (Romans 8:8-11 NIV)

I said earlier that culture is far more than the clothes people wear and the food they eat. One of the classic errors people make is to mistake the external trappings for the culture itself. It is all too easy for people to conform to the rituals of the Kingdom of Christ, such as meeting on Sunday, praying and participating in the Lord’s Supper, without being transformed by the Spirit.

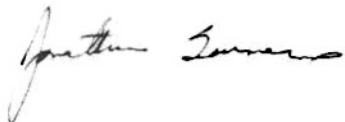
In other words, they mistakenly think it is the rituals themselves which make them right with God. They do not understand that it is not the rituals which save, but that we keep the rituals because we are saved! God has some pretty scathing things to say about people who go through religious rites without a changed heart. (For example, read Isaiah chapter 58.)

How does this apply to Key Communications? In previous Snippets I mentioned a change which has taken place in Pakistan. When we lived there, the Christian community was given one slot per year on the state-owned media to host a Christmas program. Now Christmas celebrations have become public media events with high ranking government officials taking part. In one sense, the change is very welcome, because it is evidence that Christians are no longer as stigmatized as they once were. It's also welcome because more people than ever before are being exposed to the message that Christ was born to be the Savior of the world.

But there is also a danger that these celebrations will be viewed as little more than showcases of Interfaith cooperation. We need to keep on proclaiming the message that Christ's birth only has meaning when we understand He came in order to die. It is not a celebration which makes us pleasing to God, but the transforming power of the Spirit through the death, burial and resurrection. It is He who renews our minds and remakes us into the image of Christ.

Thank you for making it possible for us to proclaim the "whole will of God" (Romans 20:27) to a world which badly needs to hear that Christ not only was born, but also died to take away our sin. Your prayers and generous gifts enabled us to end the year in the black. I appreciate your confidence in this ministry. Please continue to pray that our broadcasts and other methods of outreach to those who speak Urdu will continue to be effective as we go forward in 2026!

Yours in the Name of Him who transforms us,



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