

A Christmas TV Special

Christmas

A Transforming Christmas Carol

- I. If we are honest, we all, at times, act like **Scrooge**.

Romans 7:15-19 ESV

¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

John 8:7 NLT

⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”

Admitting we are still needing to work on things isn't a sign of weakness or **immaturity**. It is an acknowledgment that we are **dependent** on God to continue, and finish, the "good work" He started in us.

II. As in Scrooge's life, God desires to transform us.

2 Cor. 5:17-18b ESV

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

Ez. 36:26-27 NLT

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Is. 1:18 NLT

“Come now, let’s settle this,”
says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,
I will make them as white as snow.
Though they are red like crimson,
I will make them as white as wool”.

God doesn't desire to transform us because we are **horrible** sons and daughters, or because He doesn't **love** us at whatever stage of our journey we are on. He wants to transform us to help us **act** more, and be more, like His Son.

Gal. 5:22-23 NLT

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

III. A gift we can give this Christmas is the understanding that others can be, and are, being transformed by God.

Ps. 51:7-12 NLT

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice.

⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from
me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.