

Jesus-Centered Family on Mission

Week 1: Transformation

Primary Passage: Romans 12:1-3

Related Passages: Romans 4:4-5, Romans 11:33-36,

“I hate how hard spiritual transformation is and how long it takes. I hate thinking about how many people have gone to church for decades and remain joyless or judgmental or bitter or superior... In community, we discover who we really are and how much transformation we still require.”

- John Ortberg

“Give up the struggle and the fight; relax in the omnipotence of the Lord Jesus; look up into His lovely face and as you behold Him, He will transform you into His likeness. You do the beholding--He does the transforming. There is no short-cut to holiness.”

- Alan Redpath

LifeGroup Study Guide:

Read and Recap: Have someone read **Romans 12:1-2** and recap the highlights from this week’s sermon.

- How has your understanding of what the church is meant to be changed throughout your life? Have you had more positive or negative experiences with church?

Reread Romans 12:1, Romans 3:23-24 and Romans 4:4-5. Where have you seen “the mercies of God” in your life? Where are you tempted to try to prove your goodness and earn God’s love as a wage?

Reread Romans 12:1 and Galatians 2:20. While Paul’s instruction to “present our bodies as “living sacrifices” may sound archaic, the truth is we naturally sacrifice for what we love most. What do you sacrifice your time, money and energy for most naturally?

Reread Romans 12:2. Paul says that as we do the work to offer our lives as living sacrifices and renew our minds, God does the work to transform us. Why does only changing our external behavior fail to accomplish the transformation God desires for us?

- What are specific gospel truths that you need to be renewing your mind in regularly? (Work as a group to find specific scriptures to reinforce these truths.)

Pray that our church family would continue to treasure Jesus above all else. **Pray** that our LifeGroup would be committed to each other’s spiritual transformation through confession and pointing each other toward the mercies of God.