



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS – Therefore...

Community Group Study Guide Romans 12:1-2 – Week of October 16th, 2022

1. The Motivation for Transformation

As Paul reminded us in Romans 11:36, all things are by, through, and for God. He is sovereign and in Him everything holds together. It is out of what God has done that we find the capacity and motivation to be transformed. While we can be motivated to obey out of fear of punishment or desire for reward, the greatest motivations that we should have is love and gratitude. Love for God because He has loved us, and gratitude for God because He has paid our debt. This heart position that is moved in response to what God has done, not motivated by selfish ambition, is what should truly motivate us to be transformed.

2. True Spiritual Worship is Self-Sacrifice.

Christians are called to be imitators of Christ. Christ willing sacrificed Himself. This is what Paul is appealing, and why he tells the Romans to present themselves as living sacrifices. He does not order them, but reminds them that their proper response to a sacrificed Savior is a willingness to sacrifice themselves to the Lord. Being a living sacrifice is the ongoing process in which we are transformed from our old sinful way to the righteous ways of Christ. This includes the complete reconfiguring of our minds, so that we might know what Gods will is.

3. Do not be Conformed, but be Transformed.

Therefore, this is our aim as Christian. In light of all that God has done, we should desire no longer to be conformed to the world, to the sin in which we once lived. We now, motivated by love and gratitude, should seek passionately to be transformed. With a new heart, and a renewed mind, we are to set ourselves to discerning and acting in the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Human beings are born with sinful mind and heart. Through our redemption in Christ, we have a new heart, but are also called to have a new mind. When we are saved, our thinking must be transformed.

Heart

We should constantly be reminding our hearts of all the God has done. This should stir up within us love and gratitude for God, motivating our desire for transformation.

Hands

There is no greater way of transforming our minds than through the reading of scripture. Read, meditate, submit. Allow God to clean and restore your mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership 101

October 30th @ 1pm

Prayer Night

November 6th @ 5pm

Read Romans 12:1-2

1. Paul starts the passage with a reference to what he has already established. What is the “therefore” therefore? How is what Paul already established key to the additional direction he is giving us in the passage today?
2. Throughout scripture, there is significant emphasis on the order of events and principles. Why is the means just as important as the ends? How does an understanding of Godly order change our outlook? Change the way we view the world around us?
3. Paul specifically uses the metaphor of a living sacrifice, to help us understand the ongoing nature of the process. Reflecting on your sanctification, what practical actions have you taken to transform your mind? How have you encouraged your heart to stay on the altar?
4. What does it look like to glorify God with our bodies? Where do we struggle to glorify Him, and how do we correct it?
5. Why is it incorrect to be primarily motivated by either fear of God's wrath, or desire for Gods rewards? What is our proper motivation? How does fear of wrath or desire for reward contribute?
6. Paul states that presentation of our bodies before God as living sacrifices is “logikēn” or reasonable/logical. How would you explain this? Why is the continuous sacrifice of yourself logical?
7. What area of your life/mind has God been transforming over this last season? What verse or passages have been convicting you in this process?
8. How does pray play into transformation? How should we use prayer as a response to scripture?