



WHEN IN ROMANS PT. 4: TRANSFORM, DON'T CONFORM

Paul spends the first part of Romans showing us what God has done through Jesus. We are sinners saved by grace. We are justified by faith. We are no longer slaves to sin. There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ. Then, in Romans 12, Paul shows us what our response should look like. Because of everything God has done, we are called to offer ourselves completely to Him. Not part of our lives. Not only on Sunday. Not an egg here or there. Complete and total surrender. The world is constantly trying to shape us, but God wants to transform us. Culture is like a moving walkway pulling us in one direction. Following Jesus means choosing, every day, to surrender to God and let Him change the way we think, live, love, serve, forgive, and treat others.

BIG IDEA: The gospel doesn't just change where you're going when you die; it changes how you live before you get there.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever tried to fit in with a group of people and later realized it was changing you in a negative way? What happened?
2. "When you start to become two different people in two different places, eventually they will have to collide." Where do people feel the most pressure to live a double life today?
3. Read **Romans 12:1**. Paul says to offer your body as a living and holy sacrifice to God. What does complete surrender look like in everyday life?
4. Pastor CJ said, "The thing about a living sacrifice is that it can crawl off the altar." Where are you most tempted to crawl off the altar and take control back?
5. Read **Romans 12:2**. What are some ways the world tries to conform the way we think, speak, spend, date, forgive, lead, or treat people?
6. The message compared culture to a moving walkway. Why is transformation intentional? What happens if we simply stand still spiritually?
7. Paul says we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. What helps renew your mind? What tends to pull your mind back toward the patterns of the world?
8. Read **Romans 12:9–16**. Which trait of a transformed believer stands out to you most: sincere love, passionate service, hope in suffering, generosity, forgiveness, humility, or empathy? Why?
9. "Passion doesn't stay charged accidentally." What are some ways believers can stay spiritually connected to God instead of running on empty?
10. Paul says to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Which one is harder for you: grieving with people in pain or celebrating when someone else receives something you wanted?
11. What is one area where God may be inviting you to stop managing your image and start surrendering your heart?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, ask yourself one honest question: Where have I crawled off the altar?

Maybe it is with your words. Maybe it is in your attitude, dating relationship, bitterness, need for control, private thoughts, spiritual habits, or the way you treat people. Whatever it is, do not just manage your image. Bring your heart back to God. Transformation does not happen by accident. It begins with surrender. Every morning, we have a choice: climb back on the altar or take control back. Do not leave this week simply saying, "I'll try harder." Instead, pray, "Jesus, keep changing me."

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Romans 12:2 NLT**