



Conform or Be Transformed

January 3, 2021 Message Notes | Pastor Rafael Then-Gea, Kendall Campus
ROMANS 12:1-2

In 2020, did we honor God well in worship, conversation, devotion, prayer, or actions? Or were there times we tried to fit in and conform so much to the world around us that we lost sight of what is most important? With all the learnings of this past year, what can we do differently in 2021?

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NOTES

In 2020, did we represent God in worship, conversation, devotion, prayer, or actions that honor Him daily?

God deserves us representing Him well.

We all are tested daily in the things we can't control; we show our fruits in the way we react.

At times we try to fit in and conform so much to the world that we lose sight of what is most important.

In scripture, we read of many transformations in the lives of common men and women that faced all types of battles.

“He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Saul asked.”

ACTS 9:4-5

Paul experienced a transformation like no other. Then he acknowledged Christ as Lord. He had a change of heart.

The world can blind us, but Christ is the one who restores us in our Father's eyes.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's Mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

ROMANS 12:1 (NIV)

Our Father isn't looking at us through the world standards and what others think we should do.

God's mercy is a lot of forgiveness. His unending mercy and grace covers us over and over again.

Every day we have an opportunity to represent to the world that we are His living sacrifices. We don't give proper worship to our Father when we fill our time with all the other demands and distractions in our lives.

God freely gave His Son as a living sacrifice, and we represent Him here on earth.



Life's habits are hard to make or break on our own.

When we represent Him, there is no way we can fail Him.

It's not about what we have done or will do, but about what Christ did.

When we start our walk with God, we start moving differently, acting differently, and we realize how confused we were – how the world was blinding us from the truth.

Once we are in Christ, the biggest battles we will face are with the **“inner-ME's”** (the flesh).

“Do not conform 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)

As Christ-followers, we should not copy the behavior, customs, or patterns of this world because then we are just like everyone.

Remember His mercy and allow Him to transform us in the way we think and love others, which then ripples into every aspect of our lives.

We should be willing to honor Him because we know that His will is perfect.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NIV)

This transformation happens daily as we allow His Spirit to work in our lives.

“Out with the old, in the new.” Don't allow the past to haunt us or be an excuse not to follow the will of God.

If we prepare mentally and spiritually to run every situation through His filters, we learn to surrender ourselves to what His will is—good, pleasing, and perfect.

Our “inner-Me's” can become our biggest enemies when we are being tested, but when we refocus and adjust the lens through His mercy, He transforms those human failures into the opportunity of a lifetime.



Even when we fail, we go back to HIM and not the world. Even when all the odds are against us, we go back to HIM and not the world. We REPRESENT Him best when we come home to the Father, asking for help in those hard moments.

Three simple steps to face your situations:

1. Start with a prayer to seek His will
2. Align your will with His by removing the old and replacing it with His new, His will
3. Remember His mercy and grace is sufficient

As we are being tested under fire or want to grow in a relationship with Him, we have to give Him control of the situation (lay it at His feet).

He doesn't throw away your past and everything in your life; He repurposes it.

Jesus took the loss to teach us a lesson. And we don't deserve it – but that's how much He loves us.

We cannot keep waiting for the right time or feeling; the time is now, to represent His glory in our lives.

