

## What Transformation Looks Like

### Romans 12

#### I. Intro

- A. We start a new year with great expectation
- B. I hope you have set some goals based on conviction:
  - 1. Study the word of God
  - 2. Serve the body of Christ
  - 3. Give Generously of time, talent, and treasure
  - 4. Invest in the eternal
  - 5. Reach out to your neighbors
- C. There are tools available to you:
  - 1. Sunday school classes and small groups
  - 2. Evangelism training
  - 3. Service opportunities
  - 4. Ministry Groups and community service options

#### II. Text

- A. Verses 1-2:
  - 1. Transform: metamorphoo, change
  - 2. Some word as when Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John
- B. Verses 3-8:
  - 1. Serve as you are gifted
  - 2. Serve within the body
- C. Verses 9-13
  - 1. Show the love of Christ that is in you through an outward expression
  - 2. Serve the body, serve with love, serve...
- D. Verses 14-21
  - 1. The actions of faith in the world
  - 2. Serve with the body, but be prepared for the difficulty on the world

#### III. Point

- A. Transformation
  - 1. [2Co 3:18 ESV] 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
  - 2. Your responsibility is to allow for continued transformation in your life as you join in service with a body of believers that are doing the same thing.
    - a) Not everyone is in the same place, but everyone is yield
    - b) Wherever you are, start there and grow and change
  - 3. Transformation is an individual commitment that impacts the entire body
    - a) When you submit yourself to the life changing truth of Christ, you are being shaped (formed) into what God would have you be.
    - b) When an entire body of believers is in the same mode of transformation, it is impactful to the work of the body, and encouragement for those on the journey with you.
  - 4. What motivates you?
    - a) Love motivates: I love my family, so I'm motivated to provide and sacrifice
    - b) Fear motivates: I'm afraid of snake clowns, so I'm motivated to run away
    - c) Desire motivates: I desire to hot my goals this month, so I'm motivated to give my energy
  - 5. Motivation can be Intrinsic or extrinsic:
    - a) Intrinsic Motivation: Comes from within, driven by enjoyment, interest, or personal fulfillment from the activity itself, such as mastering a skill or feeling a sense of accomplishment.

- b) Extrinsic Motivation: Driven by external rewards or punishments, like salary, bonuses, praise, or avoiding negative consequences
    - 6. The motivation for transformation comes from the Spirit's work in you.
  - B. Service
    - 1. The second section of the chapter is regarding the church body specifically
    - 2. The subtitle in my Bible calls this "Gifts of Grace" and I like that description very much.
    - 3. The body gathered and committed to the cause Christ sets before us is challenged to be a gift, as we have been gifted.
    - 4. You ARE a GIFT:
      - a) You have place to serve, and a calling to serve
      - b) You bring blessing to the body when you serve in those gifts
      - c) Becoming a disciple of Christ is moving from consuming to contribution
      - d) "A disciple is someone who has moved from being a recipient of the church's mission, to being responsible for the church's mission." Popular quote from unknown source
      - e) This is a truth, but don't forget that sometimes you need to allow people to come alongside you and help you as well.
      - f) We serve, we contribute, and we also benefit from the fellowship.
  - C. Challenge
    - 1. The third section speaks of challenges and hard things
    - 2. We will be challenged from within and without, but we shall remain steadfast in the mission.
    - 3. Live in harmony with one another, be at peace with one another, BLESS those who persecute you!
    - 4. Living the transformed life hits a little different when you KNOW you are right, but you have to wait on God to do His work in the situation.
    - 5. Many times in the challenge our heart is in the wrong spot, and we do not desire blessings for those we have deemed unworthy...its a process.
    - 6. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good
      - a) Lots to wrestle with in this
      - b) Lots of work, if you allow it
      - c) Transformation was never promised to be easy, but it will be worth it!
- IV. Close
- A. Commit yourself to the Lord and to His church
  - B. This month we will redefine direction and responsibility in the church for members of the body.
  - C. We will be challenged and we will see clear Biblical truth:
    - 1. To serve
    - 2. To give
    - 3. To submit
    - 4. To stand
    - 5. To yield
    - 6. To BE the body of Christ