

Serving God with a Transformed Mindset

Word

Scripture Reference

Romans 12:1-21

Discussion Questions

1. What factors have influenced or bear significance in shaping your life? Share with the group.
2. Read Romans 12:1-21. To conform means to be molded or stamped according to a pattern, and being conformed to this world means to have the same thinking and same values as the world. What are some of the world's philosophies that are in conflict with the Word of God, but to which even Christians tend to conform? Discuss. (Example: Do you believe that public opinion defines truth? Do you think truth is relative, not absolute, which means that what is good for you is good for you even if it is not pleasing to God?)
3. The word "transform," from the Greek word *metamorphoo* which forms the root for the English word "**metamorphosis**," is an action word showing a process of change from the inside out (e.g. tadpole transforming into frog; caterpillar into a butterfly). How can a person be transformed into Christlikeness (v. 2)? Do you agree with C.J. Mahaney's statement that "the greater our difference from the world, the more true our testimony for Christ... and the more potent our witness against sin"? Have you ever made a stand that influenced others? Share with the group how your transformed life had been noticed by others.

4. Compare Romans 1 and Romans 12 and identify the clear picture of transformation.
 - a. How does conforming in worship (ch. 1:25) differ from a transformed worship (ch. 12:1)?
 - b. When a person conforms to this world, how does he or she regard his/her body (ch. 1:24)? How does a transformed life affect his attitude toward his/her body (ch. 12:1)?
 - c. How does conformation affect the mind (ch. 1:28)? In contrast, what does transformation do to the mind (ch. 12:2)?
 - d. What wickedness results from conforming to the world (ch. 1:29)? What are Christians called to do (ch. 12:1,2)?
5. Love is a supreme virtue which centers completely on the needs and welfare of the other person (the one loved), with you doing whatever is necessary to meet those needs. What characters are seen in the leadership of a transformed leader in verses 12:3, 4-5, 9-21? Do you serve God with these attitude as you lead at home, work or church?

Walk

As a servant leader seeking to have a transformational impact, what are some things you must stop so as not to be shaped by the world in your thinking and service? What should you develop in your thought patterns to transform your life and service? Think of one step you can take this week toward getting rid of habits that purely conform to the world's pattern.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, I know that there are many times that I chose to follow the ways of the world instead of following Your ways. I know that I have repeatedly done things that displease You because it seems easier, it seems right since everyone is doing it. I ask for Your forgiveness, and I pray for Your enablement. I desire to live a transformed life that can influence others towards You, and I'm grateful that You made that kind of life change possible through Your Son, in whom we have victory over sin. So give me strength, Father, in Jesus' name, Amen.