

Trans
~~CONFORM~~
TRANSFORMING LOVE

Romans 12:1-2: 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. 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.

Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

In this series, we’re looking at the clear directions that Paul gave us in Romans 12:2. We need to stop conforming to the pattern of this world, but instead allow God to transform us by the renewing of our mind. A constant question we should ask ourselves – if not daily – at least weekly is “Am I just going with the flow and conforming to the ways of the world or am I being transformed and actually going against the current of society? We need God’s help to be transformed and part of this process involves Him growing the Fruit of His Spirit in our lives.

1A) Describe the different meanings of the term “world.”

1B) PERSONAL: How do you see the world of today demanding that we all “conform?”

1C) PERSONAL: How difficult is it for you to stop conforming to the world? Why?

2) How do the following verses reveal that God wants to renew our minds or change the way we think?

2 Timothy 1:7:

Philippians 4:8:

Read Galatians 5:13-15:

3A) What instructions are believers given by Paul in these verses?

3B) PERSONAL: How does this help you understand why the first Fruit of the Spirit mentioned is love?

4A) What did Jesus tell the disciples in John 13:34-35?

4B) Why is this important if we want to be transformed?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:16-18:

5A) How do these verses explain the idea of transformation and that it can only be accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit?

5B) PERSONAL: Describe how you see this fruit growing in your life. For instance, are you more loving towards God and others than you were a year ago? Etc.

6) How do the following verses reveal that God demonstrated His love for us?

John 3:16:

Romans 5:8:

Read Romans 12:9-21:

7A) Make a list of all the Principles and Commands Paul gave for how we're to live a transformed Christian life.

7B) PERSONAL: Which of these areas do you need to ask God to help you stop conforming and be transformed?

ACT: It's much easier to just conform to the ways of the world because it's hard to swim against the current and to feel like you're alone and sometimes like you're fighting a losing battle. However, God has revealed that He wants us to become more and more like Jesus and that process involves sincerely growing in our love for God and our love for others. Like the caterpillar in the cocoon, being transformed is a struggle, but the end result will be worth it!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's read various passages about the concept of love and why it's so important.

Monday:

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 NIV

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Tuesday:

Psalms 25:10 NIV

All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Wednesday:

Psalms 36:7-10 NIV

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Thursday:

John 14:15 NIV

"If you love me, keep my commands."

Friday:

John 15:9-10 NIV

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."

Saturday:

John 15:17-18 NIV

"This is my command: Love each other. If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."

Sunday:

Romans 8:35-37 NIV

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us..

