

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 24, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith Topic: Living a Transformed Life

Main Text: Romans 12: 1-21

Key verse: Romans 12: 2 *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.* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION Chapter 12 of the Book of Romans sets out succinctly the kind of people we are expected -- and indeed empowered by the Holy Spirit -- to be as Christians. It makes clear that the "reasonable" response to our salvation is to live Christ-like, sacrificial lives of holiness before God. We are no longer free agents permitted to do our own thing. Our calling is to display God's character to the world knowing that Christ has overcome the world on our behalf ((John 16:33). Christ left us a lived example of the sacrificial lifestyle and values expected of us as the Body of Christ. The standard governs our behaviour as individuals in all spheres be they home, church, work, school – all social settings. We are to be holy, separate, and non-conforming regarding worldly values, ambition, and materialism, unlike unbelievers (Romans 1: 28-32). Adherence to His selfless example is a major aspect of our submission to God and of our worship. It is proof that we are truly reborn of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Holy Spirit enables us to be self-effacing rather than self-serving, to be sharing and caring for one another, full of discernment, always demonstrating Godly charity and forgiveness towards others, including unbelievers. (Matthew 5:44).

(a) Read Romans 1: 28-32; 8: 5-8. What does it mean to "not be conformed to the pattern of this world but transformed by the renewing of your mind"? **(b) What is the pattern of the world? (1 John 2:15 -17).** **(c) Why is a renewed mind necessary? (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:17, 22-24; Romans 8:6)**

Holiness is a requirement for believers and our "reasonable service" (Romans 12:1); it is not a suggestion or recommendation. Where we were once separated from God by sin we are now separated from sin by Christ. We remain in the world, and therefore in the presence of, and subject to temptation to, sin, but we are not of the world (John 17:16) and so no longer under its dominion (Ro 6:14). Holiness is Christlikeness. The will of God is our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3a; 1 Corinthians 7:1). As our carnality decreases, through growth and choice, our likeness to Christ increases through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Unlike the rest of mankind, we are no longer children of wrath, constrained to carry out the desires of the flesh (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:5- 8). We can now manifest the fruit of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23). Having been saved, we are to be sanctified by being "transformed by the renewing of our mind" putting "off the old man" and being "renewed in the spirit of our mind" as we "put on the new man which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24). Mind renewal is the ongoing process of sanctification that follows salvation and empowers us to discern and conform to God's perfect will and to witness by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through regeneration our minds can receive the truth of the Gospel whereas the mind of the unbeliever cannot (1 Corinthians 2:14). We have the ability to fix our mind on things above and not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-17). It is a choice we must make. Growth in Christlikeness is intentional, not automatic.

(a) Read Romans 8:1-6. What is meant by a "spiritual" mind? **(b) Read Romans 8:9-11 and 1 John 4:4-6 Why do you think Paul says holiness is our "reasonable" service?** **(c) Read John 14:26; Acts 1:8 and Galatians 5:16. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our transformation?**

Transformation is a process; it is not an event. There are definite steps that we must take to become more Christlike in our reasoning and less worldly. Colossians 3:1-2 enjoins us to actively set our minds on things that are above unlike those people who live according to the flesh with their minds set on the things of the world (Romans 8:5). In Philippians 4:8 Paul counsels us again to intentionally fix our minds on those things that are excellent and worthy of praise. All this is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us to love what He loves and hate what He hates to bring our minds increasingly into alignment with the mind of Christ. We can become progressively more like Him, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(a) What must we do to be renewed in the spirit of our minds? (Philippians 4:8-9; 2 Peter 3:18; Psalm 1: 2; 119:15) **(b)What are some of the benefits of a renewed mind? (Ps 1:3;Isa 26:3; 2Peter 1:5-8)** **(c) Discuss some obstacles to having a renewed mind and how we can overcome them.**

Prayer: *Now to Him who can keep us from stumbling, and to present us faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Amen. (from Jude 1:24-25)*