

#4 Being Transformed Series

Jun 28, 2023

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Summary: This lesson deals with how God wants to transform us. We are to be transformed in our Heads (minds), Hearts (desires), and hands (actions)

Being Transformed

Introduction: 1) Americans like to make new year resolutions:

#1 resolution: losing weight, more exercise, be a better person

2) Change is difficult, we are creatures of habit, sometimes change is impossible,

3) Good news, God can and wants to help us make great changes (to experience transformation).

4) Theme for this year “BE TRANSFORMED”

Scriptures: Romans 12:1-2

I. Be Transformed in Our Way of Thinking (Head)

A. Our way of thinking is

1. Influenced by others: Parents, friends, culture, education

2. Corrupted by the ways of the world and by sin, we have a worldly perspective

3. Our minds are focused on self (Romans 8:5)

5. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

B. The key to changing behavior is changing the way we think

1. Change must start in our thoughts; “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

2. We will always fail to change behavior if we do not change our thinking

C. How can we change (be renewed) in our way of thinking?

1. We cannot do it by ourselves; we need God’s help

2. We need to come to know Christ, through salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

3. We need to come to know God’s Word. Hear, read, study, memorize, and meditate on God’s Word

Illustration of the hand, each finger represents one of the ways we can grasp God's Word

D. Goal: to have the mind of Christ, a biblical worldview (1 Corinthians 2:16, 2 Cor. 10:5)

5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II. Be Transformed in the Passions of Our (Heart)

A. What is the Heart?

1. Not our physical heart

2. The center for our emotion, desires, motives, values and will

B. Our Hearts need changing

1. Our hearts have been corrupted by our sinful nature (Jeremiah 17:9)

9The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

2. Our hearts can be full of evil, hatred, lust, pride, envy, jealousy etc. (Mark 7:21-23)

21. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

C. Only God can change our hearts

1. We must surrender our hearts to God by putting Christ on the throne of our heart

2. Stop making excuses for the sins of your heart; repent of those sins

3. Over time, God can radically change your heart (Ezekiel 36:26)

26. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

D. The goal: Love God with all your heart and love others with the love of God

III. Be Transformed in Our Actions (Hands)

A. Without a change in our mind and heart, there will be no significant changes in behavior

1. Any change in behavior is only temporary

2. Any change in behavior is only superficial (just an outward show)

Example of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:25-26)

25. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

26. *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

B. Our behavior will truly change only when our mind and heart are changed

1. Our behavior will progress in accordance with the change in our thoughts and heart

2. Change in behavior will be real and lasting.

C. Goal: to have our actions controlled by the Spirit and by serving others.

Will You Surrender Yourself To God?