

Be transformed

Romans 12:1-2

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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. 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.

(Romans 12:1-2)

Introduction

To urge means to “try earnestly or persistently to persuade (someone) to do something”. He was urging them to live a certain way amidst a culture that was far from God.

There is little doubt that in the context of the verses the followers of Christ in these early days were greatly influenced by a pagan culture in Rome. They had become followers of Jesus. Their lives were changed at conversion. But as we know our conversion is just part of our salvation story. We are daily being transformed while we live in this world. This is no easy task. In fact, we cannot do this on our own. Our transformation is a gift from God and he is renewing us daily.

Jeremiah, who is known to us as the “weeping prophet” because of the laments he would write out, spoke of God’s mercy in the book of Lamentations:

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions (MERCIES) never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

(Lamentations 3:20-23)

As we remember what He did on the cross for us we can move into a better understanding of what he is calling us to do every day.

1. Give your whole self to God. All of our life is worship.

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.

Often when we think of worship our mind automatically goes to what we do here on a Sunday morning. Yet, Paul urges us to be sure we see worship as even more. Worship is not just a church activity; it is a life activity. A. W. Tozer wrote, *"If you will not worship God seven days a week, you do not worship him on one day a week."*

2. Do not be shaped by this world. We must be watchful not to be conformed to this world (because we still live in it).

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, (Romans 12:2)

In this verse, Paul warns us to not be conformed to this world. John wrote,

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:15-16)

The term 'world' does not mean the physical planet. It refers to the mindset and ways of this world. John describes it as 'the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.' Paul is telling us as Christ followers we should not be conformed to this world.

3. Be transformed with new patterns of thinking and living. We are being transformed daily by the renewing of our mind. Grace is on-going.

...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. (Romans 12:2)

We are not left without a solution. We are to be "transformed". To be transformed is to be changed or renewed. It is the process in the Christian life of being made complete.

Conclusion

Abiding in this way, we will discover God's good, pleasing and perfect will.

To "test and approve" means that we will be able to do what God says is best while rejecting the lies of this world. We will be able to see where the good life is truly found, not in what the world has to offer, but rather in God.

So, what does it mean to apply the **Romans 12:2** meaning to our life today? We need to make Jesus the king and the ruler of our life. We should look to him for what is best, rather than what the world says is best. Be Transformed!