

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT) -

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

The most reasonable response to salvation is a dedication to formation.

“true act of worship” – Logikos: rational, “logical”

Transform – Metamorphoo: to transform, change, transfigure

Study Guide

This week we looked at Romans 12 and spoke about how the most reasonable response to salvation is a dedication to formation. As you look at your life as a Christian, what have been some things that helped you in that formation? What helped you be transformed by God?

Take a moment to read Ephesians 5:1-2. When you think about “imitating Christ” what comes to mind? What parts of that are easy for you? Are there any areas where you struggle to imitate Christ?

It can be frustrating to hear the call to be transformed, to imitate Christ, to live according to His example and instructions because sometimes it just doesn't seem possible. Jesus was always loving. Am I always loving? Always? Jesus was always righteous. Am I? likely not. This can be so frustrating so exhausting that we simply give up, but that is not what God has for us. One of the important things to remember is that this formation by God may have some moments of dramatic change, but that it can often take much more time. The disciples took 3 years to even understand who Jesus was after all.

So, let's approach this another way. If you took one of the areas where you might not be who God has created you to be yet, an area where you are not as much like Jesus as you would like to be, what is one way you can move a little closer? Is there something that could help move you a little bit today and a lot by the time a year has gone by? It's okay for this to take some time, as long as we know we are headed in the right direction together.

Take some time to pray for each other that we might all be formed by God to be more like Jesus and more like who he has created us to be.