



Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Valley Church

January 19 & 22, 2023
Week 33 – Transformed! (Romans 12:1-2)

Introduction:

Chapters 1-3 (Diagnostic Section: We are born rebels in need of a Savior)

Chapters 4-11 (Deliverance Section: God has provided everything we need to be rescued from the penalty, power and presence of sin)

Chapters 12-16 (Discipleship Section: How does a person live who has been treated with such radical kindness by God?)

Romans 12:1-2 – The Foundation of Discipleship

- See 1 John 3:23
- 1 John 4:19 – We love because He first loved us.

Romans 12:1a (J.B. Phillips Translation)
“With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you...”

As New Covenant disciples, we have been given

- 1) New _____ (new spirit in union with God's Spirit)
- 2) New _____ (trusting the Vine to produce fruit)
- 3) New _____ (fruit-bearing as opposed to rule-keeping)

The Big Idea: How does a radically grateful person live? How does a person live whose eyes are “wide open to the mercies of God?” As a living sacrifice who understands they are holy and pleasing to God in Christ!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLEXION

Personal Life:

1. What definition(s) have you associated with the word “disciple?”
2. Do you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus? Explain...

Ponderings:

3. Romans 12:1 begins “...with eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you...” (Phillips literal translation). What do we learn about the *motive* and the *means* of godly living from this profound statement?
4. The verse continues: “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” To “offer” means to “yield” or “present.” What does this mean in practical, day-to-day terms? Can you give specific examples?
5. Notice that Paul goes from plural (offer your bodies) to singular (as a living sacrifice). What might this show us about the importance of seeing ourselves as “one body” made up of many members (as Paul will later express in verse 3 and following)?
Is it possible to live a healthy Christian life in isolation? What does this indicate about the power of Christian community for discipleship? How can small-group interaction play a role in fostering this community?
6. Romans 12:2 literally says, “Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold.” What is the mold of the world in distinction from the mold of Christ?
7. The verse continues: “...but be transformed (metamorphosized) by the renewing of your mind.” How is the mind essentially renewed and why is it the foundational battleground of growth for a disciple?

Promptings:

8. Thinking back over the past week or so, what are some specific lies you've caught yourself believing? How did God's truth renew your mind to sanity or correct thinking? What does renewal of the mind look like on a daily basis and why is it so critical?