

Adult Group Study Guide for October 11, 2020
Series: *Foundation*; Message: *Transformation, Part 2*

Goal: To put into practice five outward signs of a transforming life.

Key Verse: *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 12:2 (NIV2011)

1. The book of Romans is not only a comprehensive statement of the Christian faith but is also full of practical guidance for living the Christian life. If someone asked you to complete this sentence how would you respond: “You will know someone is a Christian by...”

2. Read Romans 12:1-2. In what ways is the Christian faith counter-cultural or like swimming against the prevailing cultural values and behaviors? Read Luke 5:36-39. What was Jesus trying to say about the need for renewal in the Christian life using the examples of new fabric patches on an old garment and new wineskins for new wine? (2 Corinthians 5:17)

3. Read Romans 12:3-8. Why is humble service such an important part of the Christian life? What happens when we think we are better than we really are? Why is it so important to remember that all Christians have different gifts? What gift do you have that you can share?

4. Read Roman 12:9-14 and Matthew 5:43-45. What changes when we refuse to be enemies with others, even after we are deeply wounded by them? Why is loving others central to the practice of the Christian faith? (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34)

5. Read Romans 13:1-5. Why should we submit to the governing authorities? Why is submission important as we relate to other Christians, especially those in leadership positions? (Ephesians 5:21; Hebrews 13:17) How does proper submission to authority help us to keep a clear conscience? (Romans 13:5)

6. Read Romans 14. Paul is talking about eating meat sacrificed to idols. Give an example of a freedom that you may need to sacrifice at times in order to avoid putting a stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister in Christ. (verses 13-18) Why is unity such a high value in the Church? (verses 19-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2; 1 Peter 3:8) How can you help build the unity of the Church?