



BAPTIST CHURCH

## **Our True Act Of Worship**

**“A Transformed Life Is A Beautiful Life”**

**Romans 12:1-2**

### **Introduction**

It’s the beginning of a new year and God placed **Romans 12** on my heart.

We live in a world of routines, rhythms, cycles and seasons. The beginning of a new year is a time to begin again, a time to recalibrate, an opportunity to establish new routines, new rhythms, break old habits and seek to create new ones.

The last couple of weeks we have learned:

### **We are Challenged to Live With Purpose.**

“In view of the mercies of God— **Because of the love, compassion, grace, majesty, greatness, judgments, wisdom, power, and glory of God we are called to live a different life! We are challenged to present ourselves— to freely give the total of sum of who we are to God— so He can utilize us however He deems necessary, to accomplish His plans and advance His kingdom on the earth.**

### **We are Called to Live a Transformed Life**

Living a transformed life means:

**Do not be conformed to this age.**

“**Do not be conformed to this age**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” CSB

The word translated “**conformed**” comes from the Greek word “**syschematizo**” meaning to behave, act like, take the form of, or assimilate to the pattern of this age.

“**This age**” refers to the present world we live in.

## Scripture

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” CSB

## Quote Of The Day

“I hate how hard spiritual transformation is and how long it takes. I hate thinking about how many people have gone to church for decades and remain joyless or judgmental or bitter or superior.”  
— John Ortberg

Living a transformed life means:

## **Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind**

“Do not be conformed to this age, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” CSB

Followers of Christ are called to live a “**Transformed Life.**”

The word translated “**transformed**” comes from the Greek word “**Metamorphoo**” meaning a thorough and dramatic change in form or appearance, to change from one form to another form, to be born again.

Faithful followers of Christ are called to live “**a different life!**”

## **The Transformed life is a beautiful life**

**Not a holy roller, I am better than you, critical or judgmental lifestyle. We are called to live a transformed life that reflects the heart, mind, character and conduct of Jesus.**

It astounds me how God can take a caterpillar, a grotesque worm like creature crawling on the ground and allow it to enter into the stage of metamorphosis.

After four stages of metamorphosis the once grotesque, worm like creature crawling on the ground is transformed into a graceful, beautiful, colorful butterfly with wings that allow them to float around gracefully fulfilling God’s design and purpose for existence.

Because of God’s grace, His mercy and His love for us He can take anyone who is marred by sin, broken, wretched, poor, miserable and hopeless— and transform us into His likeness.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27** is a promise to every believer, “. . . I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. 26 **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.**” CSB

When we experience the overwhelming Grace and Power of God we will never be the same.

**John Newton** was transformed— Amazing Grace

“This body is not who I am, I inhabit this body. As I am being transformed to be more like Jesus on the inside the behavior of my body will transform to be more like Jesus on the outside.”

Being transformed means being changed from the inside out!

## **Six Steps That Lead To A Transformed Life**

### **1. Conviction of Sin**

**John 16:7-8** “I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, **He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.**” CSB

The term translated “**convict**” comes from the Greek word “**El en kho**” which means to reveal a fault.

The Holy Spirit works in our lives to reveal our faults and cause us to see our need for Christ.

**The Holy Spirit has the power to reveal the truth of God’s Word to us and convict us when we reject, disobey and fall short of that truth.**

**Without the presence of the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sins we compromise biblical values, we rationalize our sin and then make excuses for our sinful behavior.**

Six Steps that lead to a Transformed Life: Conviction of sin

### **2. Confession of Sin**

**Romans 6:23** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;”

**1 John 1:8-9** “If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” CSB

The term translated “**confess**” comes from the Greek word “**homologeo**” which means to make a solemn statement, to admit to wrong doing, to commit to a punishable deed.

**When we confess our sin**— God is faithful to forgive us of our sin!

Six Steps that lead to a Transformed Life: Conviction and Confession of sin

### 3. Repentance of Sin

**To confess our sin is one thing to repent is another!**

**Luke 13:3** Jesus said “. . . I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well.”

The term translated “**repent**” comes from the Greek word “**Metan o e o**” which means to turn, to think differently, to move in another direction, to have a change of heart that leads to a new self and changed behavior.

**Confession of sin without repentance of sin is pointless and it is a mockery to the grace of God!**

**Galatians 6:7-8** “Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, 8 because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.” CSB

**Confession and Repentance help keep our heart clean of the clutter, and debris of sin.**

In the article “Extreme clutter hampers efforts of firefighters after house catches on fire,” The Reflector (3-17-22)

Firefighters from three departments responded to a report of a house on fire in the Cherry Grove area of Vancouver, Washington. When the first fire truck arrived engine Fire and smoke were visible from the windows in the kitchen and living room area of the home, but the yard around the house was cluttered with appliances, vehicles, and storage bins. The yard was so

cluttered it was difficult for firefighters to quickly stretch hose lines to the structure.

A news release stated: “Once firefighters were able to clear out some of the clutter and make access to the house, the fire had grown too large to safely make an offensive interior attack. In addition, the interior spaces of the house were also very cluttered with high piles of clothing, storage bins, appliances, furniture, and other items.”

Fire Chief John Nohr said, “Normally in these types of fires, we bring in a track hoe to tear apart the piles. Due to the clutter in the yard, we weren’t able to get heavy equipment in there to help with extinguishment.”

Nohr said, “In 37 years in the fire service, this is one of the most extremely cluttered homes I’ve ever seen. I feel for the family that has lost all of their possessions, but I also feel for the firefighters who put themselves at significant risk trying to fight a fire in a house this full.” Citation: “Extreme clutter hampers efforts of firefighters after house catches on fire,” [The Reflector \(3-17-22\)](#)

Just like a cluttered house can cause problems, so can a cluttered heart. It is difficult to hear, to see, experience or walk with God when the clutter of sin in our life is in the way.

Six Steps that lead to a Transformed Life: Conviction, Confession, Repentance of sin

#### 4. Commitment to Christ

**Matthew 6:24** Jesus said “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The term translated “**serve**” comes from the Greek word “**doulos**” which means to submit to the authority of another.

**Every person will make a choice and submit their will to the authority of only one master!**

Six Steps that lead to a Transformed Life: Conviction, Confession, Repentance of sin, Commitment to Christ

## 5. Obedience

Jesus said in **John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” CSB

**The first act of obedience begins with baptism.** Why would God ask an authentic follower of Christ to accomplish His purpose and advance His Kingdom on the earth if we have not followed his first command to be baptized?

Baptism does not come from a denominational principle or preference. Baptism is a biblical mandate from Jesus. Baptism is a conscience decision made by those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. Three things we must understand about baptism:

### **Baptism is a command**

**Matthew 28:18-19** “Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” CSB

**Acts 2:42** “So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.” CSB

### **Baptism is symbolic**

Baptism does not save us, Baptism is an ordinance revealing we have died to our sin, we are raised to a new life with Christ, and the water rushing from our bodies is symbolic of our sins being washed away.

## **Baptism is a public display of our faith in Jesus Christ**

**Matthew 10:32-32** “everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.

Here is the test about baptism— some have said I was baptized as an infant, or I was confirmed at a certain age.

**Baptism is not biblical if we do not remember the moment or the occasion.**

**Baptism is not biblical if we do not do it from a heart of commitment and obedience to the command of Jesus.**

**True Baptism is a personal choice of obedience to the command of Jesus. Baptism signifies before God and others that we have committed our lives to follow Jesus.**

Six Steps that lead to a Transformed Life

### **6. An intentional process of Spiritual Development**

**Matthew 28:20** “teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” CSB

**Acts 2:42** “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.” CSB

We are transformed by the “**renewing of our mind.**”

The phrase translated “**renewing of the mind**” comes from the Greek words “**Anakainosis**” meaning to give fresh life or strength. To cause something to become new or different.

The second word in this phrase referring to the mind comes from the Greek word “**Nous**” referring to the mental capacity to reason, to understand, to think and decide.

We are transformed to something new and different when our capacity to reason, to understand, to think and decide is given strength and fresh life.

Three steps we can take to consistently renew our minds:

## **1. Read and Meditate on Scripture**

**Psalm 119:9-16** “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word. 10 I have sought you with all my heart; don’t let me wander from your commands. 11 I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you. 12 LORD, may you be blessed; teach me your statutes. 13 With my lips I proclaim all the judgments from your mouth. 14 I rejoice in the way revealed by your decrees as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on your precepts and think about your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

## **2. Live with humility**

**Philippians 2:3-8** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. 5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.” CSB

## **3. Focus on the correct things**

**Philippians 4:8** “brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever

is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell “**think**” on these things.