



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Be Transformed!”

Ps Rice Brooks – October 5, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who do you look like the most, your father or your mother? What's the main trait you inherited from him/her?
- Who are the people who have the greatest influence in your life? Why is that so?
- Have you ever lied to yourself? What caused you to realize that you were doing that?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Rom 12:1-2 NIV *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. 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.*

Some texts on holiness: Eph 5:27; Heb 12:14; 1 Pet 3:15; 2 Tim 3:1; 2 Tim 3:5; 1 Cor 6:18-20

The world inevitably applies pressure on us to conform to its values and ways. But God commands us to not be conformed to the pattern of this world, and instead be transformed by God's truth.

1 Pet 1:13-19 ESV *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

We must be renewed In our minds by filling our thoughts with God's word. We need to read, study, and reflect on God's word. Armed with an increasing knowledge of God's word, we will then be able to test the application of it to our lives. As a result we will be able to discern God's will in our circumstances.

We must not be a people who want God's mercy, help, and blessings, but fail to surrender wholly from the heart to God. God requires us to give him our whole hearts and lives. To do so is for our own benefit as well as God's honor.

We must beware of "sitting in neutral" (sin). The course of this world is like flow of a river. If we do nothing, we will be swept downstream from where we are now, even if we are pointed in the other direction. To overcome the force of the pattern of this world, we must actively pursue God, putting his word in our minds and putting it into practice.

There are too many people who have drifted so far from the clear teaching of Scripture that they now are convinced that they are justified or approved by God to do things that are prohibited in Scripture. Only by paying ongoing attention to God's word will we be able to continue to know what pleases God and so be clear about how we are to live and direct our lives.

Let's not have Christian hearts with pagan minds. Let us renew our minds and so transform our lives!

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- How can you resist the influence of the world in your mindset? How do you plan to increase God's input in your mind and life?
- What do you need to crucify in your life in order for your life to be a living sacrifice to God?
- Have you been born again? If yes, what is the evidence? If not, would you like to experience the power of new (spiritual) birth today?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That your life will be a living sacrifice that proclaims God's praises in everything you do.
- That God will create in you a heart to obey and follow Him.
- That the Spirit who has given you new life, would empower you to live for Christ every day.