dedicated to:

Community Group Discussion Guide   June 8, 2014

Transformed Living
Romans 12:1-2

The first word in this text is the word: "Therefore" and it comes after 11 chapters of in-depth theology. In chapter 12 Paul is transitioning from "belief to behavior".

Introduction

Paul begins the 12th chapter with these words..."Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy..." In view of God's mercy we are compelled to live differently. We are compelled to want to please and honor God with our love for Him and our love and service toward each other. In the final chapters of Romans we see how the rich faith that we've learned about takes root and leads to action in our lives.

Questions for Study

1. Looking back over the previous 11 chapters what specific passages stand out to you that shape your understanding of who God is, and who we are as Paul now calls us to action?

2. Reflecting on verse 1, how would you describe an appropriate response to: "God's mercy"? What are your thoughts on the following statement: "There is scarcely anything more important for building our commitment than an increasing understanding of the greatness of God and his mercies to us."

3. Reread verses 1-2. Assign a phrase from the passage to each of the following titles: The Goal, The Negative Command, The Positive Command, and The Outcome/Reward.

4. What are some practical ways in which you can offer your body as a living sacrifice to God?

5. In this text we are instructed to "not be conformed to the pattern of this world". Practically speaking, where in your life do you see tension between being "conformed" to the pattern of this world rather than being "transformed" by Christ?

6. According to this text what is the reward to us for having our "minds transformed"?

7. On what specific things in your life do you need to let the Holy Spirit transform your mind? How could submitting what you "think about" to the Holy Spirit change specific situations or circumstances in your life.

8. How do you sense God is wanting you to respond to this passage?