

REDISCOVERING BIBLICAL PURPOSE

Matthew 22.34-40

As we begin a new series, we will see that the goal is **spiritual transformation**. This is the part of the maturation process before each of us. For the next seven weeks, the focus will be on growing through relationships. During this time we will need to keep in mind the following values:

Ten Core Values for Spiritual Transformation

Spiritual transformation . . .

. . . is essential, not optional, for Christ-followers.

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – **this is your spiritual act of worship**. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind.”* Romans 12.1-2a

. . . is a process, not an event.

*“Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”* 2 Peter 3.17-18

. . . is God’s work, but requires my participation.

*“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – **continue to work out your** salvation with fear and trembling, for **it is God who works in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.”* Philippians 2.12-13

. . . involves those practices, experiences, and relationships that help me live my life intimately with Christ and walk as if he were in my place.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15.9-12

. . . is not a compartmentalized pursuit. God is not interested in my spiritual life; he is interested in my **life** – all of it.

*“And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way**.”* Colossians 1.10a

. . . can happen in every moment. It is not restricted to certain times or practices.

*“**Be very careful**, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of **every opportunity**, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”* Ephesians 5.15-17

. . . is not individualistic, but takes place in community and finds expression in serving one another.

*“Above all, **love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to **one another** without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms**. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”* 1 Peter 4.8-11

. . . is not impeded by a person’s background, temperament, life situation, or season of life. It is available right now to all who desire it.

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” Romans 12.3-6a

. . . and the means of pursuing it, will vary from one individual to another. Fully devoted followers are handcrafted, not mass-produced.

“Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12.2b

. . . is ultimately gauged by an increased capacity to love God and love people. Superficial or external checklists cannot measure it.

*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement **give you a spirit of unity** among yourselves **as you follow Christ Jesus**, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Romans 15.5-6