

Metamorphosis

From Christine Anderson

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer 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 is one of my favorite verses in the entire Bible. It is also one of those verses I find myself coming back to over and over again.

All of us have wondered what God's will is for our lives, both in big picture ways and in everyday ways. Should I take that job, should I serve in this ministry, etc? Sometimes it is confusing; are we doing things because it is God's will or do we have other motives?

Let Romans 12:2 be a check point for you. The second part of the verse says "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is..." Isn't that what we need to be able to do? How much clarity would we have in our daily lives if we were able to "test and approve what God's will is?"

The inclusion of the word "then" means there is something that must happen before we are able to discern God's will. So what must happen first?

The answer lies in the beginning of the verse. We must stop conforming to the patterns of this world. Ok, sounds great, but how exactly do we do that? Keep reading...by being "transformed by the renewing of your mind." What does that mean? It means we can't keep thinking as the world thinks and know God's will. The world's standards for success, family, careers, money, and so on are completely different from God's.

The word "transformed" comes from the same Greek word that we use for Metamorphosis. I Googled "Metamorphosis." Did you know that when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it first builds its chrysalis around itself and then the caterpillar excretes digestive juices that actually destroy the caterpillar leaving just a few cells intact? Using the broken down caterpillar for nutrients, the cells divide and grow to be a butterfly. The caterpillar has to die in order to become a butterfly. It is physically impossible for the caterpillar to remain a caterpillar AND become a butterfly.

Do you see the parallel? The difference between how Christians think and the how the world thinks should be as radically different as a caterpillar and a butterfly. So often we want to know God's will and we want to walk in the freedom of Christ while still looking, acting and thinking like the world.

I'm sorry to tell you this, my friend, but it doesn't work that way.

Our natural default is to think like the world. The world says you can have anything you want, do whatever you want, say whatever you feel like saying and you deserve all of it. God says you must die to yourself, giving is better

than receiving, obedience leads to freedom and others are more important than you. The difference is huge...kind of like the difference between a caterpillar and a butterfly, isn't it?

I challenge you to memorize Romans 12:2 and spend time meditating on it regularly. Think about where you are still clinging to the world's values and ideals. Think about how you measure success and failure. How you handle your family, your free time and your money. Examine the feelings that come to the surface as you think about these things. Do you get uncomfortable, angry, or irritated? Ask God to show you why. What areas of sin are being revealed to you? And then what do you need to do about it?

I pray that God blesses you as you memorize and meditate on His word. Time spent in God's word is never, ever wasted. We are so thrilled to be taking this journey with you. Don't forget to share with us on the blog...we want to know how God is working in your life as you hide His word in your heart.

Christine

