



Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

RESET (part 1)

January 3, 2021

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experienceliberty.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

"We as a church need to reset our lives in a way we never have before..."
---Pastor Matt Burrell---

Living Sacrifices to God

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

When we talk about resetting our lives in regard to our spiritual walk with God, what does that mean? Many times, we allow "other stuff" to infiltrate our minds and hearts as we progress through a new year. How can we stay focused on the Gospel *and* the needy things in our life without losing focus on our spirituality?

Look at your current state of being and your future state of being. Where do you see yourself at years end...more faithful...more spiritual...more in tune with God...? or less of each?

If you had to make a Godly relational resolution for 2021, what would it be and how are you going to attain it?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- In the opening verse we read that Paul is beseeching us to move into a real working relationship with God. It is not a command, rather an offering to join us together as a unified body. How can you help others come into an actualized relationship with God and other believers?
- In a living Christianity, faith and conduct are inseparable. Explain.
- Paul speaks of the mercies of God. How has God been merciful to you? Paul writes to the Colossians : *And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;* (Note that real sympathy or compassion demands that you become involved)

- How can you be a living sacrifice? Doesn't a sacrifice mean something has to die? What wrong ways of thinking, living out the Gospel or understandings have to die in your life In order to grow in Christ?
- Paul writes to the Ephesians in Ephesians 5:10 to try and learn what is pleasing to God. In other words, these saints were to be putting every thought, word, and action to the test to discern "What does the Lord think about this?" The ultimate question should be... Is how I am living well pleasing to the Lord? Think about your life last year...was it pleasing to the Lord? How can we adjust our lifestyles?

 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- The entire world system is summed up in three terms: "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1John2:16). Nonconformity then applies to these three spirit killers. You must become a non-conformer in regard to how we used to live. This cannot be a list of do's and don'ts because the only way to change is transformation. Ask yourself this and give a honest answer: Is what I am watching, reading, listening to, talking about, allowing in to my heart, dwelling on, etc....in line with Christ? What am I going to do about the things that are drawing me away from Christ?
- The Greek word for conform is schematizo which means to form according to a pattern or mold, to fashion alike, to conform to the same pattern outwardly. Pickup on the root word schema and say "we are not to go along with the world's schemes." How often do we fall for what seems pleasing to us and not God? Who is behind the scheme? Think about the list below. How do these affect us?
 - fortune-money and materialism
 - fame-popularity and acceptance
 - power-influence and control
 - pleasure-sensual desires
- Note that **transformed** is Passive Voice which indicates that this process is being performed by an outside force, the Holy Spirit , God's Word, not a change produced by our self-effort. We must be (passive) transformed by God, trusting Him to do in and through us what only His Spirit can accomplish. How often do we take up the mantle of transformation through our own efforts only to fail? What does that look like?
- Think about the following statements and discuss each:

AND GOD SAID: Let us FORM man in our image.

THE DEVIL SAYS: I will DEFORM man by sin.

THE WORLD SAYS: We must CONFORM man in our image.

EDUCATION SAYS: Let us INFORM man by knowledge.

SOCIETY SAYS: We will REFORM man by culture.

ONLY CHRIST SAYS: I will TRANSFORM man by grace.