

Truly The Community



2023 Lenten Journey – Week 2

Based on Marva J. Dawn

Romans 12 – How to Be the Church

FROM CONNECTIONS TO WISDOM

Romans 12: 2a-b “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

We began the journey last week by making the connections. This week we look at the wisdom of learning from our past. Paul the author knows exactly to be passionate about things that may not necessarily be of God. He himself protected Judaism at all costs to the point of persecuting and killing those who watered it down, according to the traditions of the religion. He would later learn that God is bigger than human traditions of understanding and worshipping God as Paul writes to the Philippians 3:8, “Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ.” Religion is the pattern of the world and yet the spirituality of seeking Christ is the pattern of the kingdom. This is wisdom.

- What are some of the traditions you hold dear as the maker or breaker of your understanding of life and God? Is there room for God to influence you otherwise?
- What lessons can you learn from your journey that would liberate you from conforming to the pattern of the world?
- How best can you seek Christ in your life?

One of the ways in which we can move from the patterns of the world to the patterns of the Kingdom we need to be transformed. There is a change not in form, but in character. This transformation begins with the mindset. The more we think differently to how the world conditions us, the more we will even grow in our connections with God and with God’s people. Our values change, our priorities get to be altered and our behaviour certainly changes. There is therefore the need to fast the standards of the world and make room for the mentality of Christ to be ours. Such wisdom does not only heal us, but the world around us too. We see things differently. We interact with others differently to the norms of the world that are driven by stereotypes and perceptions.

- How can you best define transformation of a human being?
- Why do you think it is important to allow our character to be reshaped by the character of Christ?
- If we are to truly be the community what are some of the values that we need to embrace that would make Christ known through us?
- Why is it important for Paul to talk about the renewal of the mind instead of the heart?

Prayer:

Renew my mind so that my character can be transformed.

Amen



Bedfordview MC

Cnr van Buuren & de Wet, Bedfordview
www.bedfordviewmc.co.za
@bedfordviewmethodist
011 455 2600

Kensington MC

90 Roberts Ave, Kensington
@kenmethodist
011 618 3839

Malvern MC

14 Hereford St, Malvern
083 477 1939

Spesbona MC

5 Short Street, Johannesburg
@spesbonamethodist
082 932 4845

Johannesburg East Circuit of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

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