



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Marks of a Transformed Life

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God wants us to be conformed to the image of his Son (Rom. 8:29). When we are already in Christ, we are a new creation: The old has gone, the new is here (2 Cor. 5:17). We have been crucified with Christ and we no longer live, but Christ lives in us (Gal. 2:20).

Therefore, in view of God's mercy, we must offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is our true and proper worship (Rom. 12:1).

Eight Marks that Can Serve as Guideposts in Directing Believers Toward a Transformed Life

1. Surrender (marked by willing surrender)

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart; with all your soul; with all your strength; with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself (Lk. 10:27).
- To love God with all your heart means putting God first in every decision and living each day full of desire and praise for Him.
- To love God with all your mind means wanting to adopt to His viewpoint, receiving scripture as God's Word and living and thinking according to the truth.
- To love God with all your strength means placing all one's possessions, time, talents, treasures, and physical energy at God's disposal.

2. Renewal (marked by renewed thinking)

- Do not conform 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 (Rom. 12:2).

3. Service (marked by humble service)

4. Love (marked by genuine love)

- Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves (Rom. 12:9-10).

5. Diligence "*kasipagan o tiyaga*" (marked by determined diligence)

- Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord (Rom. 12:11).

6. Perspective (marked by perspective of faith)

- Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Rom. 12:12).
- And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

7. Community (marked by living in a community of believers)

- Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn (Rom. 12:15).

8. Righteousness (marked by righteousness)

- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21).
- God made him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

Transformation is about God doing something in me and me cooperating with Him.

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