

welcome to community church

february 12, 2012

spiritual formation





Ephesians 2

¹⁰ God has made us what we are. God has created us in King Jesus for the good works that he prepared, ahead of time, as the road we must travel.

John 14

¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commands.

¹² I'm telling you the solemn truth; anyone who trusts in me will also do the works that I'm doing.

Romans 12

¹So, my dear family, this is my appeal to you by the mercies of God: offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Worship like this brings your mind into line with God's.

²What's more, don't let yourselves be squeezed into the shape dictated by the present age. Instead, be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you can work out what God's will is—what is good, acceptable, and complete.

Romans 7

¹⁴We know, you see, that the law is spiritual. I, however, am made of flesh, sold as a slave under sin's authority. ¹⁵I don't understand what I do. I don't do what I want, you see, but I do what I hate. ¹⁶So if I do what I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the law is good. ¹⁷But now it is no longer I that do it; it's sin, living within me.

¹⁸I know, you see, that no good thing lives in me, that is, in my human flesh. For I can will the good, but I can't perform it. ¹⁹For I don't do the good thing I want to do, but I end up doing the evil thing I don't want to do. ²⁰So if I do what I don't want to do, it's no longer "I" doing it; it's sin, living inside me.

²¹This, then, is what I find about the law: when I want to do what is right, evil lies close at hand! ²²I delight in God's law, you see, according to my inmost self;²³but I see another "law" in my limbs and organs, fighting a battle against the law of my mind, and taking me as a prisoner in the law of sin which is in my limbs and organs.

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²⁴What a miserable person I am! Who is going to rescue me from the body of this death? ²⁵Thank God—through Jesus our king and Lord! So, then, left to my own self I am enslaved to God's law with my mind, but to sin's law with my human flesh.

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Jesus wants to save you from you forming you.

There is no neutral. You are always being formed.

Jesus wants to save you from you forming you.

You have to want to be saved from you.

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Matthew 13

44“*The kingdom of heaven,*” Jesus continued, “is like treasure hidden in a field. Someone found it and hid it, and in great delight went off and sold everything he possessed, and bought that field.”

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The early Christians thought of questions about “behavior” not as a separate topic, but as one aspect of their larger aims: worship and mission.

-N.T. Wright
After You Believe

...to have their character shaped, together and individually, to become the human beings God meant us to be, which means being concerned primarily with worship and mission and with the formation of our own character as the vital means to that double end.

*-N.T. Wright
After You Believe*

Do I exist primarily to have a happy life and behave along the way or do I exist for worship and mission?

How does that shape my view of my formation – of how I live (behave)?

God bless you.
Have a great week.