

## Measuring the Great Commission at New Life

Romans 12:3

Romans 12:2 is a critical command and a powerful promise. God commands all Christians to be transformed by the renewing of their mind. But it is also a powerful promise. God says you can be transformed.

But right after Paul wrote this amazing promise about spiritual transformation, he wrote a necessary requirement before it can happen. Do you know what Paul wrote in the very next verse? **I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves** (Rom 12:3 NLT)

Honest and humble evaluation comes before spiritual transformation.

### A) The need for humility in spiritual evaluation

Paul is encouraging Christians to engage in a serious, accurate, and honest spiritual evaluation. In addition, Paul said, **"Don't think you are better than you really are"** (Rom 12:3). Therefore, he is also calling for a humble evaluation. Humility is the key requirement for an honest, serious, and wise evaluation of our spiritual maturity. In fact, Scripture says, **"Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom"** (Proverbs 11:2).

Humility is seeing yourself as God sees you and knowing God's love for you. This will enable and even encourage you to be honest about your true spiritual condition because you know God completely loves you no matter what. Therefore, the greatest obstacle to being *"honest in your evaluation of yourselves"* (Rom 12:3) is PRIDE and the SHAME and FEAR it produces.

Your homework assignment for this message is going to be taking a thorough survey of your spiritual maturity, health, and power. In doing so, neither we nor God your Father wants you to feel any shame or embarrassment about what you discover. Our intention for asking you to complete our Spiritual Health Survey is to help you, not to hurt you.

### B) The need for honesty in spiritual evaluation

One great obstacle to growing and changing your life is that you are prone to *"think you are better than you really are."* Therefore, God repeatedly warns us of this and reminds us of the blessing of honest spiritual evaluation:

**What joy for those whose . . . lives are lived in complete honesty!** (Ps 32:2 NLT; *"in whose spirit is no deceit"* NIV)

**If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions.** (Gal 6:3-4 NIV)

**If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.** (1 Cor 10:12 NLT)

You might have to realize that you are not as spiritually mature as you think you are. Or even as mature as others think you are. And that is a really hard thing to do.

### **C) Biblical principles of spiritual evaluation**

An important measure of our spiritual growth is how fully and consistently we are obeying Christ's commandments (cf. Matt 28:20).

A biblical measure of your spiritual health, maturity, and power is also how consistently the Holy Spirit controls you. (1 Cor 3:1; Gal 5:22-23 NIV).

In Paul's description of the Christians in Corinth, he labels them, categorizes them into different stages of spiritual growth and maturity (cf. 1 Cor 2:6; 3:1). The Apostle John does the same (1 John 2:12-13). Likewise, Jesus was honest that Christians will differ in their fruitfulness (cf. Matt 13:23).

Likewise, we use some labels to helpfully measure our spiritual health and maturity. Levels of spiritual health include: Defeated Christianity, Coping Christianity, and Fruitful Christianity. These categories of spiritual health will be briefly described in the Spiritual Health Survey.

There is another set of labels we use to measure your obedience to Christ, your biblical knowledge, and the Christian commitments you have made. These include: Christian Lamb, Christian Learner, Christian Laborer, and Christian Leader.

I know this sounds like a lot of work and commitment. What else would you expect? Your spiritual growth is the most important thing in your life.

The next step for all of us is to complete the Spiritual Health Survey within the next 2 weeks.

### **Discussion ?'s**

- 1) What is the relationship between Romans 12:2 and verse 3?
- 2) What is hard about spiritual evaluation? How does humility help?
- 3) Why is honest evaluation helpful to our lives?
- 4) What are at least two ways to measure our spiritual growth?
- 5) What are some labels we use to measure our spiritual health, and what do they mean?
- 6) What are some labels we use to measure our obedience to Christ's commands and spiritual commitments.
- 7) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?