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# Different

## Victory Life Church

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Sunday, February 2, 2020

### Introduction

**Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your **bodies** as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

“All [the Church] needs to fulfill Christ’s purposes on earth is the quality of life he makes real in the life of His disciples.” ~ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

### The World

**1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the **desires of the flesh** and the **desires of the eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

**1 John 2:15-17 (MSG)** Don’t love the world’s ways. Don’t love the world’s goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—**wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important**—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

“We all want progress, but if you’re on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive.” ~ C.S. Lewis, *The Case for Christianity*

### The Kingdom of God

**Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming **the gospel of God**, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God** is at hand; **repent** and **believe in the gospel**.”

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<sup>1</sup> Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*, Introduction, pg. xiv

**John 3:1-6 (NLT)** There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that **God is with you.**” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are **born again**, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

### Transformation

**Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)** So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your **everyday, ordinary life**—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, **fix your attention on God**. You’ll be **changed from the inside out**. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**Acts 2:40-42 (ESV)** And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from **this crooked generation.**” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they **devoted themselves** to the apostles’ teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.