



Week 15: February 25, 2020
Renovation of our Relationships

"Spiritual Formation, good or bad, is always profoundly social. You cannot keep it to yourself. Anyone who thinks of it as merely a private matter has misunderstood it. Anyone who says, 'It's just between me and God,' or 'What I do is my own business,' has misunderstood God as well as 'me.' Strictly speaking there is nothing 'just between me and God.' For all that is between me and God affects who I am; and that, in turn, modifies my relationship to everyone around me. My relationship to others also modifies me and deeply affects my relationship to God. Hence those relationships must be transformed if I am to be transformed."

Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart* (p. 182)

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 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....

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:1-2, 4-5

1. Love must be sincere.
2. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
3. Be devoted to one another in love.
4. Honor one another above yourselves.
5. Never be lacking in zeal, keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
6. Be joyful in hope,
7. Be patient in affliction,
8. Be faithful in prayer.
9. Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
10. Practice hospitality.
11. Bless those who persecute you...
12. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
13. Live in harmony with one another.
14. Do not be proud,
15. Be willing to associate with people of low position.
16. Do not be conceited.
17. Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
18. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
19. As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
20. Do not take revenge...
21. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Compiled from Romans 12:9-21

Small group questions:

1. What are you like on an airplane? Are you a talker or do you prefer to keep to yourself?
2. Billy Baker's article in the *Globe Magazine* suggests that most men experience some form of loneliness. Does this ring true for you? If so, what is something you could do about it? If not, what's your secret?
3. It's often been said that while we have a *personal* relationship with Jesus it is not *private*. The metaphors of temple, body, and a living sacrifice suggest that we are responsible to and for one another. How does this sit with you?
4. Suppose you decided to meet up with a trusted friend for lunch this week... what's one question you could ask that would take the conversation to a new level?
5. Can you imagine sharing your credit card statement, calendar, and internet history with a trusted friend? Which would be the easiest for you? Which one would feel the most risky? Why?

