

Practicing the Way

Week 2

5-10-26

Romans 12:2

The Hands of the Potter

I. What is Formation

- A. The process of becoming a particular shape or character (Isaiah 64:8)
- B. Spiritual formation is not a "Christian" program, it is a universal human reality
- C. Clay in the hands of the potter
- D. Main Point: You are being formed every second of every day.
 - 1. The question isn't *if* you are being formed, but *who* or *what* is doing the forming?
And *who* or *what* is doing the deforming?!?

II. Unintentional Formation

- A. The problem...our default setting is nothing
- B. Our formation (Romans 12:2)
 - 1. Our family of origin: values, beliefs, coping mechanisms, definitions of success, etc.
 - 2. Our story, history, environments, relationships, our day in age, etc.
 - 3. The digital algorithm: AKA...our phones!
 - If we aren't careful, our "spirituality" becomes just another product we consume

III. The Intentional Shift (Romans 12:2)

- A. How do we RENEW our mind?
- B. Go therefore and make disciples (Mathew 28:19)
 - 1. Disciples...not converts
 - 2. Disciples...not fans
- C. Christians Definition of Discipleship:
 - 3. The process of being with Jesus and becoming like Him
 - Be WITH your Rabi
 - Become LIKE your Rabi
 - Learn to DO as he Does

IV. Our Call: Intentional Posture and Pursuit

- A. The Counter-Formative Life: To follow Jesus is to live "against the grain"
- B. Saying "no" to the default
- C. Saying "yes" to the renewing of our mind
- D. Living countercultural WILL cost you

V. The Practice

- A. Our Objective: move from "default" to "intentional" living.
 - 1. What patterns of this world we are CURRENTLY being formed by?
 - 2. What might God want to START forming today?
 - 3. The Formation Audit

VI. We Have Master Potter!

- A. You are a masterpiece in progress.
 - 1. Will you let the world shape you?
 - 2. Will you let GOD shape you!?
- B. WILL YOU LET ME SHEPHERD YOU??

SCAN FOR THE FORMATION AUDIT



LifeGroup Questions:

Optional Icebreaker: What's the app or activity you waste the most time on?

- 1. What are some intentional habits that you keep in your daily and weekly life? What are some unintentional habits that you keep? How are they forming you?
- 2. In what ways has your upbringing (family of origin) shaped your world views on family, success, marriage, money, politics? Are they the right world view? IS there a right worldview?!? How does scripture play a role?
- 3. What is one thing that you know is DEforming you? Shaping you in a way that might not be what Christ wants? What are some steps you can take to change that influence?
- 4. What is one new habit that you can put into place that would make the biggest impact on your spiritual life and intimacy with Christ? Name it and make a plan, then let's ask each other next week how it went!