

## **The Walk: Romans 12:2**

### **Key Scriptures**

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice- alive, holy and pleasing to God- which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God- what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Eph. 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

1 John 2:15-16 <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

**Key Point:** We must resist conforming to this world!

## **TALK IT OVER**

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever been without all forms of media (T.V., Radio, Internet, etc.) for an extended period? What do you remember about this time?

**Start thinking.** Select questions to get your group thinking.

Romans 12:2 concisely speaks about spiritual warfare, addressing the toxic environment every believer must learn to navigate. Three entities are against us: Satan, the world, and the flesh.

- Share what do you know about Satan, our enemy, with you group. Feel free to refer to Ezekiel 28:11-17, Isaiah 14:4-15 or other key passages.
- What does 1 John 2:15-16 inform us about this world system?
- Galatians 5:17 shows us that the flesh is constantly warring against the Spirit and is that part of us that is bent toward the old life & old ways. In what ways are the flesh and Spirit contrasted in 5:19-24?

**Start sharing.** Choose questions to create openness.

- What are some examples of how this world tries to push people into its mold?
- Can you give any examples of how Christians have violated scripture and been swept along by culture?
- Can you share about a time when the worlds values made it difficult for you to follow God? How did you get through it? What did you learn?
- Where do you feel the world is squeezing you into its mold today? What strategies does the enemy use to tempt you the most?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- The antidote for being conformed to this world is to allow God to transform us by spending time renewing our minds. What step will you commit to in order to engage more fully with God's word? Daily Reading Time? Time praying back scripture to God? Memorizing passage of scripture? Listening to scripture or teaching?

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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