

Gospel Lighthouse Church
5/5/24

Radical Renewal of the Mind III
Church Membership and/or Discipleship
(Relationship Loss?)

Text: Ro.12:1-2; Matt.28:19-20.

Introduction: The theme for 2024, “*Triunity*.”

Triunity: the state or quality of being threefold or triple. (Dictionary.Com). For GLC:

- Relational enhancement, Realignment for reaching out, Reorganizing for effective ministry/service impact.

Defined terms:

- Radical: the Latin source of “**radical**” is “**radix**” (genitive form: “**radicis**”), which directly translates to “**root**” (www.etymonline.com/word/radical).

- Renewal: renovation, complete change for the better. It’s a process. **Origin is relational** “Let us”...Gen.1:26.

All have been affected by the damaged spiritual environment and experiences of the fallen world. Today’s world is not the same God created. Adam’s disobedience toward God brought about changes that affect each of us and also creation—Ro.8:18ff. Renewal of the mind causes transformation (presents tense, passive voice—change into another form or shape). Ro.12:2 NTL, “**but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.**”

A clear distinction of church membership and discipleship is required to understand the process.

- Disciple (*mathetes*) - a person who learns from another especially one who then teaches others.
- Discipleship produces stable believers. Church membership in reality is being disciplined through hearing the word, attendance, fellowship, learning and *practice*/application. Discipleship is:
 1. A ministry priority—Matt.28:19.
 - a. Discipleship was the focus of the great commission – Matt.28:19-20.
 - b. Make disciples of/among all nations/races (ethnos) – *Aorist tense*. It means follow through to completion.
 2. A process of transformation.
 - a. NT meaning of disciple was being with Jesus, learning to be like Him—Acts 4:13.
 - “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (NKJ, added emphasis). Had been—imperfect tense—meaning consistency.
 - The distinctive characteristics like Jesus observed by outsiders initiated term ‘Christians’—Acts 11:26.
 - b. It’s still the same—Ro.8:29 conformed and Ro.12:2 transformed end in the root *morphe*.
 - Both words means to change into another form or likeness, Jesus Christ.
 - It’s a process of taking on the character of Christ. You began to think, have beliefs, images and ways of interpreting things model by Jesus Christ.
 - God purposed before giving us new spiritual life—Ro.8:29.
 3. A transformation that involves emotional and spiritual maturity—Ro.12:1-2; I Cor.3:1-4.
 - a. Emotional and spiritual maturity means life is not governed by your feelings/desires or emotions.
 - These are ok in their place but their place is never authorized to govern life.
 - b. One becomes a Christian by being born again but a disciple is by transformation through intimate fellowship with Jesus and work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Church membership/churchgoer that’s absent of discipleship will lack stability.
 - A disciple’s aim is to be with Jesus, learn His life and consistently realign and arrange affairs to keep God first.

JDF