

*Respond Differently*

Metamorphosis – Part 4

Romans 12:14-21

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Q. How do you respond when life seems to be against you? How do you respond when we feel under attack?

Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Review:

* Week 1 – The most powerful changes start on the inside. (like the chrysalis)
* Week 2 – God is doing something beautiful inside, but you have to let it out.
* Week 3 – New creatures live differently.

Romans 12:14-21 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

4 Powerful Ways to Respond Differently:

1. Responding to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 14 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

Vs. 17 *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone…*

Vs. 19-20 *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."*

 The World’s Responses to Attack:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Responding to the Successes and Failures of Others.

Vs. 15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

 The World’s Response to Another’s Success:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their success.

 The World’s Response to Another’s Failure:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Responding to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 16 *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

1. Responding to Different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & Different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 17b-18 *Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

*Vs. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Point: When you respond differently the world changes.

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. How do you respond when life does not go the way you want? The way it is “supposed” to go? Do you defend yourself or go on the attack, lash out at the people who seem to be against you? Do you become envious of those who seem to have it better than you? Do you quit, give up, hide?
2. How do you think Jesus would respond? How do you think Jesus would call you to respond?
3. How could you respond differently (transformed) to attacks; respond differently to the success and failures of others; respond differently to social stratification in life; respond to different opinions and people?
4. Dream: How could your consistent “transformed responses” change your world? What relationships could it change? What cultures could it change?