

SC#2: Romans 8:26-29 FORMED FOR THE WORLD'S SAKE

THERE IS SOMETHING EARLY CHURCH KNEW CHRISTIANS TODAY DON'T

- Something made church strong powerful, influential – WON 10% ROMAN WORLD

It's been lost – obscured by a shallow hijacking powerful scriptures to pacify our angst and worry

Romans 8:26-29 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And **we know** that **for those who love God** all things work together for good, for those who are **called according to his purpose**. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers**.

- It's hard but it's ok Everything's gonna work out.....Challenges of life don't fit
FRAMED loving GD – **BC we have missed His purpose**

The Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of GOD lovers, engaging them in the fulfillment of **His purposes**.

- CONNECT: Loving God and HIS PURPOSE being called acc to **HIS PURPOSE**
 - o CALLED – Called out by name – CALLING - ACC TO HIS PURPOSE -
- We have a reductionist Gospel: **We want God's love without God's purposes**.

We have transferred our worldly purposes into our relationship with God, putting them in a Christian framework. What God wants? Health, wealth, prosperity, happy. **Good life**
Consumerist approach makes god/church *another service industry* – goods consumed.

- **EXPERIENCE W/ GOD TRANSACTIONAL, not TRANSFORMATIONAL**

Loving God means your transformation – SPIRITUAL FORMATION...2 PARTS SC

P1: Spiritual Formation is about *participating in God's work of shaping us into the likeness of Jesus*.

PREDESTINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF GOD'S SON

GENESIS PURPOSE: why did God create humans? **TO BEAR HIS IMAGE**

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- **THINK TEMPLE:** polytheist societies built temples gods /fill images FG –
- God built a temple for himself (Creation) – filled it with living beings reflect his image – **HIS GLORY** – SEE GOD thru HUMANITY - **MARRED BY THE FALL/SIN**
- **PURP REDEEMED CHRIST** – not just saved – transformed to image God's Son
 - o God Filling the earth those who radiate Christ's Image

Galatians 4:19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. **COMPLETELY SHAPED INTO HIS IMAGE / POTTER**

HOW IT HAPPENS – Start the video – AUTOPILOT - LIFETIME

- **PROCESS/JOURNEY:** Lifelong – **from Faith – stand b4 Him**.
- **THE SPIRIT'S WORK:** sanctifying – shaping you into **CHRIST'S IMAGE**

- LEAD BRINGING ALL ASPECTS OF **YOU** INTO CHRISTLIKE AGREEMENT

Thinking, imagining, dreaming, speaking, treating, living.....**Don't be resistant mud...**
 Your Spiritual Formation **REQUIRES YOUR PARTICIPATION**. How we demonstrate love.
 What has He doing lately. Shaping. Convicting. Reinforcing. Transforming. U grown???

GOD GIVES TOOLS – Practices/Disciplines

- Prayer, Scripture Reading, Time, Sacraments, Obedience,
- Corporate worship, Serving, Life Groups, Grow Classes, Daily Devotionals,

Church isn't something you go to, it's a community of transformation that you belong to.

IN ORDER (other translation)

THAT HE MIGHT BE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

P2. Spiritual Formation is about *participating in God's work of shaping us into the likeness of Jesus*, for the sake of the world and the glory of Christ.

Missional Living: RADIATING CHRIST EVERYWHERE IN YOUR LIFE SO OTHERS CAN SEE JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM.

- UR SF – pursuit of God – esteem Christ>greatest longin – **FOR RESC OTHERS**

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." spent 3 years forming them as disciples and then sent them carry on same mission

Our spiritual formation can be so weak that we are ashamed to let people know we are Christians. Maybe some wouldn't believe it if we told them.

- BOUND UP: Religiosity – Syncretism (fused) - Worldliness - Individualistic
- TRUTH: MOST CHRISTIANS NOT CONCERNED LIFE MAKING DIFFERENCE

They want to be liked. Get a good job. Get married. Have kids. Save for a good retirement. Finish easy. And not go to hell.

Pray to that end: God what study, work, marry, children, grandkids, retire – **NOT TO SHINE FOR SAKE WORLD – NOT IN ORDER HEAVEN FILLED - DISSONANCE**

- **CHOOSE:** Choose God's purpose...first. Primary. Guides you...every day it's FOR
- **LIVE:** Live Your Faith On Display – **Every Christian is an Influencer**
- **ENGAGE:** multiplying image bearers - SUNDAY / Church Planting – BRING/INV

Readers Digest: "Start Now Retire Early" Bob and Penny – retired to Punta Gorda, FL, Cruise 3' Trawler, Play Softball, Collect Shells.. Dream divorced purpose of GOD

THE DREAM – YOU'VE MADE IT – STAND BEFORE GOD. Last chapter before stand before GD

- **Plan your life for that dream - Different Dream to live for...**

Revelation 7:9-12 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Mission Statement: We are a community of Jesus followers that worship God, grow as disciples and reach las vegas and the world with the gospel.