

Metamorphosis

Discussion 3



SUNDAY'S SERMON - WORDY NOTES ON ONE WORD!

This week you might like to take a photo of the sermon pictures after worship...

In Romans 12:2 we are first told *do not conform*. Ironically, the ancient word used sounds a bit like *sausagemachinis*. This word describes what the world can do as it forces us to fit - it shapes, squeezes, and conditions you to conform - it moulds us to a pattern of selfish conformity. But in the next line we are told *be transformed!* This ancient word is completely different - it is the word *metamorpho* and there are five key things to know about it...

METAMORPHO #1: CHANGING FORM

This is the opposite of *sausagemachinis*: it is not conforming by being smashed, squeezed, beaten! Instead changing form in a beautiful way, like caterpillar to butterfly!

METAMORPHO #2: LIKE JESUS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Matthew 17:2. And He was transfigured (metamorpho) before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

Mark 9:2. Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transformed (metamorpho) before them...

METAMORPHO #3: IS THIS PAST, OVER, DONE, OR ONGOING?

The form of this ancient word is what they call a "present continuous".

This is not a future only thing - it is happening now and it is a *continual journey!*

METAMORPHO #4: ACTIVE OR PASSIVE – DONE BY YOU OR DONE TO YOU?

What do you have to do when given a passive command like “be transformed?” Just be open to it. Rest in it. Receive it. The world we actively resist. With the Holy Spirit – we rest – we don’t make it happen, we receive.

METAMORPHO #5: SOLO (GOD & ME) OR IN COMMUNITY (TOGETHER IN CHRIST)?

If this word is ‘plural’ (and it is) it cannot be spoken to one person on their own. So the life of transformation of the Holy Spirit is a community thing. If you are seeking the transformative work of the Holy Spirit, there is a time to seek solitude on your own and just pray and listen, but you cannot grow spiritually without real community.

The discussion takes off from there! The sermon is available at www.ichurch.net.au

GROUP INTRO

You are on week three of a six-week journey. Start with warmth, food, a cuppa or drink. Please turn off your phones and look each other in the face at some point

You can start with one or two of these questions:

- *When you were a small child what did you want to be when you grew up?*
- *If you wrote your life story as a book, what would be the title?*
- *Music, movies, or visual art... Which is your favourite and why?*
- *If you gave up something for Lent how is it going for you? What are you learning?*

WHAT ARE WE BECOMING?

After introductions, begin today’s discussion with a *very short* quiet time.

Give everyone space to just sit for a few moments with the following two Bible verses.

Then discuss what you notice, feel or hear...

1 John 3:2

***Beloved, now we are children of God,
and what we will be has not yet been made known.
But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.***

Romans 12:2

***Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...***

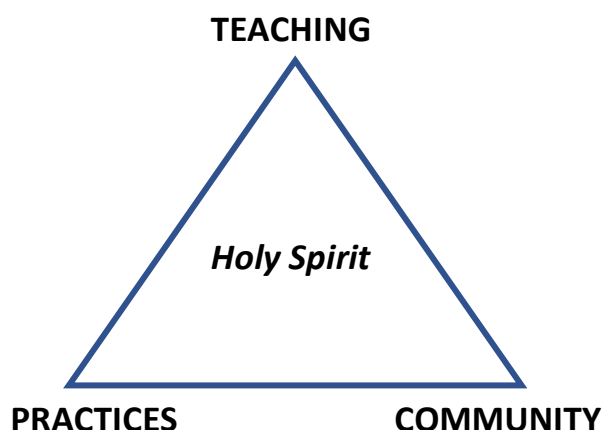
METAMORPHO - TRANSFORMED!

Check out the sermon notes from Sunday. Those notes draw out five aspects of the word *metamorpho* which are five aspects of 'being transformed' by God's Holy Spirit.

- *Which of these five aspects of 'being transformed' do you feel called to at the moment?*
- *Which of these five aspects of 'being transformed' do you feel needs more thought?*
- *Who have you admired that is further down the road of metamorphosis than you?*
- *What was it about them that inspired / helped / interested you?*

INTENTIONALLY RESTING WHERE CHRIST TRANSFORMS

John-Mark Comer from Bridgetown Church, Portland talks about 'intentional spiritual formation'. This is where we intentionally place ourselves where God's grace can surround and shape us. He reminds us that this is a journey with Jesus that takes time...



OVER TIME → THROUGH THE HARD KNOCKS OF LIFE.

1. Instead of the world's stories/narrative, we rest under Christ's teaching. (Matt 11:28-29)
2. Instead of blind habits, we practice the practices of Jesus. (Eg. Luke 4:42)
3. Instead of letting any relationship shape us, we join intentional community. (Acts 2:46)

The Christian life is one where we naturally seek to rest in the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. It is all grace, always, for all of our lives - it is a journey of grace!

- *Looking at the triangle:*
- *Which do you feel you have received best?*
- *Which do you need to focus more on?*
- *Which do you need today?*

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

As we think about community it is vital to notice our deep *consumerism*. We must decide that we don't just gather in community for ourselves. If you discuss Christian community in terms of what it does for you and what you get from it, you may miss the metamorphosis. Unless we actively buy in (commit) to a healthy community to grow it, we ourselves don't grow.

(Note: Later we will look at the difference between healthy and unhealthy community!)

Some discussion points:

- *What Christian community or communities do you call 'home'?*
(Eg. prayer partners, LTG, group, congregation, network, denomination, etc)
- *How are those communities going?*
- *What do you invest in your spiritual community?*
- *What have you committed to in your spiritual community?*
- *How can your Christian community (especially your life-group) be intentional about:*
 - *sharing life together*
 - *helping each other grow*
 - *praying for each other*
 - *challenging each other?*

CLOSING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Pray as a group. Give it time. Remember that you never hear when you are speaking, so perhaps have some quiet time in prayer too - and give each other permission that if you don't pray out loud a lot it will be "comfortable silence"!

You might like to have a leader bless you all, or speak a word of blessing for each other.

Pastor Matt Thiele, Immanuel Lutheran Church Buderim, March 2019

DON'T FORGET "GRACESPACE"

April 6th 7.30am To 12.00pm

**At the new Immanuel College Environmental Centre
(The new building at the roundabout as you enter our campus!)**

Starts with breakfast (cost \$15).

A quiet morning to grow in prayer, hear God's voice, and reflect on the resurrection story.