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TRANSFORMATION

"we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory." 2 Cor 3:18

SERVICE AND HOSPITALITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

HOW CAN I SERVE OTHERS AND BE HOSPITABLE SUCH THAT I AM TRANSFORMED?

Do you think it is possible to serve others or be hospitable in a way that leaves you 'unchanged'?

What things might help you to be transformed through serving others?

As strange as it may sound, serving others and being hospitable is good for us, as well as for those who receive our practical love. Serving others can be God's instrument in changing us.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-9

According to these verses, what 'benefit' do we receive from putting brotherly kindness and love into action?

Paul also urges us to love one another in very practical ways:

Rom. 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

For further reflection, you might also consider Matthew 25:31-40.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Develop a plan to show practical Christian service and love to another person in some special way, this week¹. The plan should involve every member of your group—this is a group activity. It should extend you all and push the boundaries of your comfort-space. Your goal is to see how self-giving and sacrifice for the sake of another actually builds your Christian character.

Complete your objective before your next regular meeting time.

Some suggestions include:

- Invite a person or a group over for a meal, say, Sunday lunch. Everyone prepares part of the meal.
- Do some practical jobs and chores around someone else's home: cleaning, washing, ironing, gardening, fixing...
- Contact LinC (ph 9973 1777) and ask if there is any way that one of their clients needs help.

See over for more suggestions--

¹ Leaders, you might like to prepare in advance an activity for your group, and actually do it during your normal group time.
St Marks Avalon and St Davids Palm Beach, Term 3 2007

- Prepare and serve a special morning tea / supper for after church.
- Mow someone's grass
- Mind someone's family while they go on a 'date'
- Visit someone in hospital, welcome a stranger, serve in a soup kitchen, be generous...

Whatever activity you decide upon, pray for the person or people involved before, during and afterwards. Be conscious of God and how you are relating to him throughout the activity.

GROUP REFLECTION

Gather together as a group after your activity and discuss the following:

1. How did you feel leading up to your service-activity? How do you feel about serving that other person or people now?
2. What might it felt like to have served in this way alone, and without recognition?
3. How did you go trying to remain conscious of God and how you were relating to him throughout your activity?
4. What do you think God was up to in your life as you engaged in this activity? Which parts of your character come under the microscope when you seek to serve others practically?
5. As a group, would you like to do something like this again?

Pray for one another and for the person or people that you have sought to serve.

To Ponder:

Why do you think our regular church meetings are called 'services'?

How might this effect our attitude towards coming to church?