

*becoming*



*vGroup Study*



VINTAGE PRESS

Becoming: vGroup Study

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# INTENTIONALLY BECOMING

Throughout this series, we have looked at the idea that we are all becoming something in our lives, whether we think much about it or not. In every person's life, she goes through a series of changes over time. No person is stagnant over the course of their years. Many people think much about who they are becoming, and the self-help sections in bookstores reflect this. People often strive to be the best version of themselves. However, others find themselves caught up in the motions of daily life, making sure that basic needs are met and tasks are done, and they can easily succumb to the flow of things without much thought as to where they are going.

As Christians, the thought of who we are becoming is even more important. We've been given instruction and direction by the living and holy God as to the way we should go. We have so much more than self-help books or motivational speakers—we have the living, breathing Word of God. However, we too can be swept into the river of life if we don't intentionally take time to steer our way. We're all becoming something, but as believers, we must be active in pursuing who God wants us to be and letting his Word be the compass that points us to him. In the fourth vGroup video in the Becoming Series, Pastor Dustin emphasizes this in the importance of intentionality in our becoming.

- What is guiding the direction of your life at this moment?
  
- What do you need in your life to become who God wants you to become?
  
- What is the significance of intentionality on the journey of becoming?

*<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:1–2

- What is Paul's request in verse 1?

- What does it mean to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God?
- How is this spiritual worship?

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges the Romans to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. He tells them to do this by the mercies of God, emphasizing that Christian sacrifice is rooted in the mercy that has already been given to us by God, not as a means to earn his mercy. They are to present their bodies and indeed their whole selves to God as a vehicle of service to him. This sacrifice is a living one, meaning that it is an ongoing commitment to a life of obedience. Paul goes on to equate this sacrifice with “spiritual worship.”

*<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

- What does it mean to not be conformed to this world?
- How are we to go about not being conformed to the world?
- How do we practically renew our minds?

In order to become who God wants us to be, we cannot be conformed to this world. We must be active and intentional in renewing our mind and training our hearts to become like God’s, working with his Spirit in changing who we are and becoming who he wants us to be.

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:12–13

- According to this passage, who is to do the work?

- The work of what?

Becoming who God wants us to be requires both his work and ours. When he saved us, he empowered us with his Spirit, who will work in us throughout our lives, giving us the freedom to no longer be slaves to sin, and giving us the ability and desire for righteousness. We are to be fiercely active in our own obedience and sanctification, coworkers with God in our inward change. Becoming cannot be passive if we are set on the goal of Christlikeness. Fueled by the mercies of God, we must intentionally and consistently present our bodies as living sacrifices to God in order to be changed.

As Dustin referred to in the video, we must have a “Rule of Life.” In order to grow in the Lord, we have to have tools and plans to keep God at the center of our lives and actions. Without being legalistic, we must shape our priorities and rhythms to reflect our goals—the foremost being becoming like Christ. Holiness and godliness do not just happen, they take effort. To sail to a destination, you have to steer.

- What do you need in your life to become who God wants you to become?
- What are your natural rhythms and priorities right now?
- What habits do you already prioritize that you want to keep? What habits would you like to consider adding?
- What do you need to cut from your life to become who God wants you to be?

Spend some time praying with your vGroup about the rhythms and priorities in your lives. Think of ways you can be more intentional individually and as a group in order to become who God wants you to be.