



September 10, 2023

Kevin Sneed

Romans 12:1-2

1. Kevin talked about the many ways that we, as humans, orient and shape our lives around both individual stories and larger narratives, often when seeking to answer the following question: *what am I made for?*

How do these particular stories slowly yet subtly give shape to our loves and longings, and to who we are becoming? Thinking specifically of our particular cultural context, what story (or stories) of the “good life” are we being taught in the Bay Area?

2. Spend a moment as a group re-visiting the definition of spiritual formation: “*Spiritual formation is the process of intentionally opening our lives to the work of the Holy Spirit to become more like Christ.*” What stands out to you about this definition?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does it mean when we say that “spiritual formation is counter formation to the world around us?”
4. Read Mark 1:14-15. Kevin said that the work of discipleship is, through the work of the Spirit, transporting our understanding of the world from the present age (marked by sin, sickness, death, and brokenness) into the age to come (righteousness, health, life, and shalom). What does the call to “repent” mean for our very thinking and the way we organize our lives?

5. The mind possesses the potential to be our greatest ally (place of greatest freedom) or our greatest enemy (place of greatest bondage) in our spiritual formation. In other words, where you give your attention and where you allow your mind to dwell will give shape to your whole life. How does this deepen, or challenge, your understanding of the mind? Of spiritual formation?
6. Kevin shared three thoughts about truth. Which of these most stood out or resonated with you?
  - a. Truth is that which corresponds with reality.
  - b. Truth is not made true by its verification.
  - c. Truth is unchanged by belief, desire, tradition, and or will.
7. Simply knowing information does not bring about change in our lives. For example, reading about running is vastly different from actually getting up and going for a run - the first, on its own, will not help you get more in shape. Consider Jesus' invitation in John 8:31-32. What do you think it means, and looks like, for us to truly understand, hold onto, and organize our lives around truth?
8. Kevin challenged us to consider the lies (or “unrealities”) we may be holding on to about our identity (sexuality, finances, relationships, work, etc) that ultimately give shape to our lives.

Is there a lie you may be believing about yourself? What might it look like for you to open this particular area of your life to the work, healing, and conviction of the Holy Spirit? How might this community group remind you and encourage you in the truth of Jesus and what He has said about you?

9. Close your time by reading John 10:10. What might it look like for you to share the truth of Jesus, and this beautiful invitation to “life to the full,” with others - especially with those who do not yet know Him?