



around us than what God wants us to be. We sometimes forget it is God who is always caring for us yet He never forgets us.

We looked at what Paul had to say in **Romans 12:1-2** where he talks about being different and not conforming to the world by changing the way we think (renewing of our mind). We saw that God not only asks us to choose to be different from the world, He helps us to be different by changing the way we think.

Standing out or being different from the world in the way we talk, what we do, the way we dress, the friends we keep and in the choices we make can be difficult for all of us which is why God helps us, through the Holy Spirit.

We said that a verse such as this can be easily taken to mean we should make a list of do's and don'ts but that was never God's plan for us. God wants our hearts to be drawn into a relationship with Him. When we allow Him to change the way we think about things, we naturally think more like Him and make choices more like Samuel did.

Samuel, at first, was angry that the Israelites would ask for any king other than God yet he didn't give in to his anger and instead went to God and asked what He wanted him to do.

We have to decide, do we truly want to know God's will (by the renewing of our mind) or would we rather just do things our own way, the world's way, and see what happens.

We finished by each making a list of things that we do in our own lives where we may want to do what the world wants or expects instead of what God wants for us.

We looked at each of the items on our lists and asked ourselves what is it that draws us more to the world than to God in the actions and choices that we make on a daily basis.

In this way, we can make ourselves more aware of what is leading us in the choices we make and examine our reasons for making the choices we make without just simply following a list of do's and don'ts.

A great, very simple example, was given asking why we eat chocolate, or ice cream to feel better when we are upset and need comfort when God is always there to comfort us any time we ask? We said it's not necessarily bad to eat chocolate as long as we don't depend on chocolate to give us the comfort that only God can give. As long as we don't depend on an Earthly king to give us what only God can give.

When we truly trust that God always wants what is best for us and we start to think like He does through our relationship with Him it becomes easier for us to go to Him, through the Holy

Spirit within us, for help or for guidance and it becomes easier for us to follow His amazing plan for us.

Join us next time as we continue our series on seeing the Thread of the Gospel throughout the bible as we see what makes a true king in God's eyes.

## Community Service

Our monthly community service at Child Protective Services will be **THIS** Saturday (January 16th) We meet at LWA at 9:30am and return after lunch.



Please call 602-684-1820 or email us with any questions.

**Bible verses referenced in this lesson: 1 Samuel 8:1-9, 1 Samuel 10:17-24, Romans 12:1-2**

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry