

## **Introduction: A picture, a problem, and a process**

- The picture – Metamorphosis
- The problem – Why do we long to change, grow, improve, and be transformed, yet find it so difficult?
- The process – Spiritual metamorphosis

## **What does spiritual metamorphosis look like in real life?**

1. **Spiritual birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 5:1  
Jesus gives me new life.
2. **Spiritual growth:** \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Corinthians 5:17  
Jesus changes me to be progressively more like Him.
3. **Spiritual maturity:** \_\_\_\_\_ 1 John 3:2  
Jesus changes me forever when I see Him face to face.

## **Is morphing for everyone?**

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

**How God transforms His children:**

**The call** – Let Jesus live His life through you.

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

Ephesians 4:1

**The process** – Practice sacrificial, other-centered relationships.

*<sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:2-3

**The reason** – Christ's Church must reflect His character.

*<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Ephesians 4:4-6

**Three reasons we fail to be transformed:**

1. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ Galatians 2:20

Our failure to understand our true identity in Christ destines us to the "try hard – do good – failure" syndrome.

- The problem: Lack of \_\_\_\_\_
- The solution: \_\_\_\_\_ your new identity.

2. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 3:13

Our failure to actively participate in deep, Christ-centered, honest relationships makes transformation impossible.

- The problem: \_\_\_\_\_
- The solution: Do life in \_\_\_\_\_

3. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 11:33-36

Our failure to grasp what's really at stake when Christians don't live like Christians minimizes our motivation and destroys our testimony.

- The problem: Our culture of \_\_\_\_\_
- The solution: Get a high, holy view of \_\_\_\_\_

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In what areas of your life have you seen God transform you since becoming a Christian? Internal? External?
2. With which of the **"Three reasons we fail to be transformed"** did you most closely identify? Explain your answer.
3. What specific step of faith could you take right now to allow God to transform your life to become like Him? When and how will you do that? Who or what might help you be successful?

### **Resources for "Spiritual Metamorphosis"**

1. How to discover your new identity:
  - *Conformed to His Image* – Kenneth Boa
  - *Unstuck*: Audio – Chip Ingram / LivingontheEdge.org
2. How to do life in community:
  - *True Spirituality*: Book, Video, Audio – Chip Ingram / LivingontheEdge.org
3. How to get a high view of God:
  - *Knowledge of the Holy* – A. W. Tozer
  - *Knowing God* – J. I. Packer
  - *The Real God*: Book, Video, Audio – Chip Ingram / LivingontheEdge.org