Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Living A Transformed Life

by Rickie Jenkins

We Christians like to think that we are a rugged individualist – a cross between Patrick Henry, Davy Crockett, and a Texas Ranger. The onslaughts of the world bring others into conformity, but not us. We stand tall.

But to be honest, we burn up a lot of energy trying to be like the world around us! That is because we carry around a lot of fears: being different, dreading rejection, being labeled a fanatic or a fool. Because we are so concerned about being ridiculed or ostracized, more often than not, we conform to the world.

Yet, God puts us into this world to affect it (Mat 5:13-16), to bring about change. We are not here to be stealthy Christians, but to challenge the world's values in life and eternity. A business person can climb to the top of a profession and by God's grace maintain a walk with Jesus. A Christian can go through four years on a secular campus and cultivate a victorious walk.

In Romans 12:1-2 it is as though Paul puts his arm around us and says, "Apart from God, you won't be able to overcome the world. But if you want to redefine yourself so the world won't, then listen to the urgency in my words: The victory requires sacrifice."

Making your body a living sacrifice to God is a personal offering. It touches two realms – the inner and outer realms. The inner person is touched by the verb "present." That is a decision down inside. Your body is the outer, physical person. In other words, you make a deep-down, gut-level decision to present your body as a living sacrifice to the Lord.

The sacrifice is also personal. It is not once-a-week kind of formality, but a constant, deep commitment. It means presenting yourself to

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Next Gospel Meeting with Terry Slack is scheduled for November 1-4

Gospel Meeting - Northwest, September 20-23

Gospel Meeting - Leon Valley, October 4-7

Gospel Meeting in Cedar Park - October 11-14

Gospel Meeting in San Marcos - October 30-November 1

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

God at lunchtime, during a date, before a trip, or in the middle of a vacation. It means giving yourself to God by saying, "Lord, in this body there are drives, desires and interests that may not be from you. So, I give you my ears, eyes, thoughts, speech – everything - as an act of worship to you."

Finally, this sacrifice requires a practical decision not to be conformed and a radical decision to be transformed. One said, "Don't let this world squeeze you into its own mold."

What does it mean to be conformed? It simply means to assume an outward expression that does not come from within. When I conform to something, I masquerade. I assume an outward expression that is not true inside. Christ lives in me. When the outside of me does something that is not Christ-like, I am conforming.

Transforming is the opposite. It means an outward expression that comes from within. When a tadpole becomes a frog, there has been a transformation. When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, there has been a transformation. When Christ in me is expressed outwardly, there has been a radical transformation that all can see.

Paul did not leave us in the dark. He said, "Do this by the renewing of your mind." That is where the battle is. Renewing ourselves may require radical changes but, if we really are rugged nonconformists, then the sacrifice of standing alone is worth it. Especially, when we hear someone say, "That person is different…I want to be like that!"

Bible Reading for this week:

Monday: 2 Samuel 13:23–14:33, Luke 24:1–12

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 15, Luke 24:13–35

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 16–17, Luke 24:36–53

Thursday: 2 Samuel 18, John 1:1–18

Friday: 2 Samuel 19, John 1:19–28

Prayer Requests

Jimmy Stinnett, Jim & Judy Trammel

Terry Berhns is improving but still hospitalized.

Doug Adair is recovering..

Autumn Felps is under treatment for bladder cancer.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dorthy Steadman, Dinah Williams, Terry Berhns.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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