

## REMODELED

T transform: "to change in composition or structure"; "to change the outward form or appearance of"; "to change in character or condition"

Romans 12:2(a) "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but *be transformed* by the renewing of your mind."

There is one thing that all home-owners have in common and that is the need for upkeep on their houses/property. Our house was built in 1964 (before many of you were born) and, as with all things, deterioration is an on-going process. Our tax return came just in time this year to remodel our "master" bathroom (instead of going to Disneyland as someone in our family would prefer...don't tell Dennis I told you that). It had become a case of "we really need to do this" rather than "it would be nice to do this." Things were getting bad: a leaky tile shower and floor that moved when you walked on it. We didn't know what we would find after those things were torn out but we were pretty sure it wouldn't be pretty. We've known that we would do this for months so the planning has been going on for some time: what kind of shower? flooring? a new vanity & top? new wall color? How extensive would the repairs need to be? Could we do some of the work or would it all have to be done by "professionals"? Until you get the old stuff ripped up, you don't know those answers. We've had to take what felt like a leap into the unknown and start the process.

When the Apostle Paul told the Christians in Rome to "be transformed" he was talking about a very similar process. We don't know all that is to be changed in our lives when we give it over to God. We just know that it might be scary or hurt in some way. Will we have to do all the work ourselves? What will we find under the surface? How long will the "remodel" take and what will the final result look like? Will we like it or wish we had picked another color? We have to do what we can with our limited knowledge and then more or less step back and let the Master Builder, the "Professional", do the rest of the work.

Dennis did all the tearing out himself, working hard to get it done before the builders came. He did what he could but then had to put down the hammer and let the builders do what we couldn't: we have to trust that they know what they are doing, will do a good job, and will charge a reasonable amount. Some parts of getting ready for this have been "fun" for me: looking at tile, bathroom fixtures, wall color, etc. although at times I admit the choices available have been bewildering. That was the part that gave Dennis the most exasperation. His most common response to "What do you think about this...?" was "I don't care! Just pick something!" Well, you ladies know that's not possible! I couldn't "just pick something." So, the process isn't without its frustrations and challenges.

We can hear our builders sawing, hammering, and making all kinds of other mysterious noises, but we don't have a part in this part of the process. We peek into the bathroom from time to time to see what progress they've made but they don't ask for our help because they know we don't have the skill to carry out the process in the most desirable way. We don't even know the questions much less the answers. When they leave, we run in and take pictures to chronicle the process. J

It's hard for us to let go and allow God to do the necessary work in our lives without trying to get in and help Him. Just as we ask our builders questions about the process, we can ask God but much of the time the most we can do is peek in once in a while and let Him make the necessary changes. Some we won't like; some we won't know were needed; and, some will be painful but all will be because He is the expert, not us. Some uncomfortable, even frightening questions about our "transformation" are "Who will I be when He's done? Will there be anything recognizable about me or will I be a whole different person?" Reasonable questions; we're all uneasy with the unknown.

When all the rotted parts were torn out of the bathroom, the builders determined that there were still some good parts left. The floor joists were solid as well as the walls. The basic, most important structural parts were able to become part of the new bathroom. It's the same with our "make-over": God made us with qualities that are still there but may get hidden under the parts of our lives that need to be "remodeled". He will continue the process, throwing away all the garbage and rotten parts as He comes to them until He gets down to the qualities that He created us with in the beginning. This is the "transformation" process...on-going, uncomfortable, unknown scariness, costly, but so necessary and, eventually, rewarding. We're looking forward to having a new, clean, shiny, re-decorated bathroom. It takes a process to get to that point but what good thing isn't worth waiting for? A bathroom is one, very temporary thing to be "transformed"; how about the eternal nature of a person? Isn't that worth the process? Even if it's painful...just a little?

"...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil.1:6

Blessings on your week,  
Georgia