

# Counter Current

## Part 1: Something Different

### WEEK OF AUGUST 1, 2021

Like water, we often take the path of least resistance. But there are times when it's best to go against the flow. Here's how to start.

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#### MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- If we're not careful, we can get caught up in the current of doing what comes easy.
  - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. | Romans 12:1
  - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... | Romans 12:2
  - If you continue to think the way you've thought, you'll continue to do the things you've always done.
  - Wherever you go, there you are, and so is your old way of thinking.
  - Renewing your mind takes time.
  - ...Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. | Romans 12:2
  - If you want to be able to know God's will for your life, you need time to be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
  - The transformation that God causes is inside-out.
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#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's your best "What was I thinking" story--something you did, said, or bought that had you thinking afterward, "*What was I thinking?*"
2. "If you continue to think the way you've thought, you'll continue to do the things you've always done." Can you identify any pattern of thinking that you've kept over the years and has led to a pattern of repeated behaviors or decisions?
3. In practical terms, how do you think we can avoid conforming "to the pattern of this world" and "be transformed by the renewing of your mind"? What might that look like? What has worked for you? What hasn't worked?
4. Do you struggle at all with how to know or to test God's will for you and your decisions?
5. Renewing our minds takes time, and we all need to start somewhere. What's the biggest action you can take to begin consistently allowing God to renew your mind this week?