

NOW WHAT*Questions for reflection and conversation***The Redeemed Man Podcast Featuring Terry Parkman**

“Who’s Informing You – and Forming You?”

A NOTE FROM YOUR HOST

What stayed with me about Terry is his passion for reaching people. He is a man who studies not for the sake of knowing but for the sake of serving. Everything he learns goes right back into the work of building the church and reaching the next generation. That kind of humble, outward-facing curiosity is rare. And it’s contagious.

Nate Dewberry

Haven’t listened yet? The short version is below. But the episode is worth your time.

Terry Parkman is a pastor, author, and founder of Next Generation Leader. His book *Future Church* draws on deep research into where the church is headed and who will lead it. In this conversation with Nate Dewberry, Terry covers the generational shifts reshaping the church, the invisible forces that form us without our awareness, and the spiritual disciplines that help men overcome self-doubt and build a more meaningful prayer life. It is a wide-ranging conversation with a man who has spent his life trying to understand what the church needs next, and then going out and building it.

Whether you’re working through this alone or with a group, there are no right answers here. Just honest ones.

Find this podcast at
theredeemed.com/whos-informing-you-and-forming-you/



THINK ABOUT IT

Sit with these before you say anything out loud.

What informs you forms you.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will." — Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Terry's phrase "what informs you forms you" is simple but it cuts deep. Who are the people, voices, or influences that have shaped you most, for better or worse? Family, friends, cultural figures, writers, leaders? Was there ever a season when you accepted their influence on autopilot, without questioning whether it was actually pulling you in the right direction?

💬 *The influence I wish I had questioned sooner:*

The thing you were least willing to give up.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.'" — Matthew 16:24–25 (NIV)

As you pursued a closer relationship with God, what was the thing you were most reluctant to release? The part of your old life about which it was hardest to say "Jesus is better"? Has putting that aside been as difficult as you expected, or did something shift along the way?

💬 *The thing that was hardest to release:*

TALK IT OUT

These are worth saying out loud, in a group, with a brother, or with God himself.

When good pursuits become a prison.

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. — 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

Terry talks about the things we begin pursuing with good intentions—fitness, creative expression, personal freedom—that eventually take over and start shackling us. Can you think of something in your own life that started as a healthy pursuit but gradually gained too much control? When did you recognize it, and what did you do about it?

Impostor syndrome and what God says about it.

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." — 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

Terry addresses self-doubt directly—the quiet fear that people are giving you more credit than you deserve and that eventually you'll be found out. Have you experienced that? Where do you think those doubts actually come from? And what have you come to understand about God that pushes back against them?

TAKE ACTION

Don't let this stay in your head. Do something with it.

What you're carrying more heavily than you need to.

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." — 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Terry asks what things we carry "more heavy than they need to be carried." Most men have a short list of things they grant far more space than they deserve. Name yours. What is one burden you have been treating as load-bearing that God is actually asking you to set down?

💬 *What I'm carrying too heavily right now:*

💬 *What it would look like to actually release it:*

Rebuilding your prayer life.

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." — Matthew 6:9–10 (NIV)

Terry walks through the Lord's Prayer line by line as a template, not just a recitation. Each line is an invitation into a different posture before God. Which line of the Lord's Prayer is most foreign to you right now? And what is one concrete change you can make to your prayer life this week based on what Terry shared?

● *The line of the Lord's Prayer I most need to sit with:*

● *My one change to my prayer life this week:*

CLOSING

"And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God." — Romans 8:27 (NIV)

Terry Parkman has spent his life studying where the church is going and doing everything he can to help it get there. What made this conversation worth your time isn't just the ideas. It's the reminder that God is not finished with his church, and he is not finished with you. The same Spirit that is reshaping a generation is available to reshape a single man's prayer life, his habits, and his sense of purpose.

Before your next gathering, or before the end of this week, name one thing you are going to do differently based on this conversation. Not a concept. A specific change.

● *My one specific change this week:*

The men around you are watching how you live. What does this week say?

A prayer to close

Father, we confess that we have allowed things to form us that were never meant to. Voices, habits, fears, and distractions have taken up more space than they deserve, and we have carried burdens you never asked us to carry. Forgive us for that. Thank you for Terry's example as a man who keeps learning so he can keep serving. Give us that same outward-facing hunger. Renew our minds where the world has shaped them in the wrong direction. And meet us in our prayer lives, not as a ritual but as a real conversation with a God who actually listens. We want to be men who are formed by you, not by everything else around us. Amen.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Future Church: How Disruption, Innovation, and a New Generation Are Reshaping the Church* by Terry Parkman
- Next Generation Leader: nextgenerationleader.com

The Redeemed Man Podcast is a production of The Redeemed • theredeemed.com