

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Be Not Conformed Be Transformed. **Romans 12:2**

INTRO:

We came to **Romans 12:1** recognizing that it was the reasonable act of worship and service demanded of us because of the great grace given to us in salvation. While in all of our versions, **Romans 12:1** and **12:2** are different verses, they are still one thought. We have not totally wrapped our minds around being a living sacrifice until we grasp the how to in **verse 2**. Therefore, today we will labor to understand and apply **Romans 12:2**.

I. The Commands

II. The Promise

I. The Commands

Romans 12:2 *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

A. We want to please our Lord because of all He’s done for us and to present our bodies a living sacrifice to the Lord, but how do I do that? Paul told us how to do this with two commands. First, we must not let the world force us into its mold. Two significant Greek words make of this command.

1. The first is the verb translated **“conformed.”** It means to be like the age around us. It is used only twice in the New Testament, here and in **1 Peter 1:13-15**.
“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,”

2. This conforming is the easiest way to go. When I was a teenager, it was popular to not conform to the establishment. So we were non-conformists. We wore long hair, torn jeans, wire rimmed glasses, beards, and funny language. We were non- conformists in a conforming way. If we are not going to let our old life

back in and run counter to the age, we must choose to be driven by a different drummer.

B. The second significant word is the word translated ***“world.”*** This Greek word is not the usual word translated ***“world.”*** It is a word that means ***“age.”*** This is the culture of the age in which we live. We must not allow the values of this age or its attractions allure us away from Christ.

C. Paul’s second command is: ***“Be Transformed.”*** From this Greek word we get the word ***“metamorphosis.”*** This what the word actually means. This word is found in such places as in the transfiguration **Matthew 17:1-2.**

“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”

The veil was pulled aside and these disciples beheld the glory of God in the face of His Son. The inner character of Christ came out. It was also used of our own transformation by our seeing the image of Christ in **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB95)**

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

1. How do we have this transformation? Paul told us. It is by the ***“renewing of our mind.”*** How is this done? First it involves us working together with the Holy Spirit. Transformation is not letting go and letting God. It looks like **Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV).**

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

When God saved us He sent the Holy Spirit in us to change us from the inside out. Transformation is working with the Lord to work out what is in us to that which others can see.

2. This work begins with the ***“mind.”*** The word means ***“the way we understand, perceive, feel and think.”*** We need a renewed mind. What does this mean? We must have a mind that has the old functions replaced by new thinking perceptions and feelings. How can that happen? Do you remember a verse we read earlier?

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB95) ***“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”***

The Holy Spirit works this renewing in us as we view the glorified Christ in the pages of His book. He transforms us from one level of glory (one level of Christlikeness to another.

3. What does this look like on the outside?

Colossians 3:7-10 *“In which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”*

II. The Promise

Romans 12:2 *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

A. While we revel in the commands, we often overlook the promise here. If we will do this and not let the age push us into its mold, and will be changed completely from inside out by the Spirit of God making our minds new, there is a promise to be had. We will learn through testing what is the will of God. The last part of this verse in the ESV says,

“that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

B. Paul describes God’s will in three ways. It is **“Good”**, which means morally upright and beautiful. Second, it is **“acceptable”** which means well pleasing and satisfying. Finally, it is **“perfect.”** That which is complete without blemish or defect.

Now we understand this verse, what are we going to do with it?

Hymn #368 **All for Jesus**