

## **Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind**

**Intro: Paul in Romans 12:1 urges us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. In verse two he tells us how it is done.**

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

**Be transformed...**

*Our English word means “to be changed in form”. The electric company delivers power to the homes of American through high voltage lines; but the high voltage must be changed into a safer and more usable form to be used by the appliances in our household. Thus, we all have somewhere outside our homes transformers that convert the high voltage.*

*The Greek word Paul uses is “metamorphow”. You recognize this word as the one scientists use to describe the changes in the butterfly as it goes through a series of changes that take it from a larvae to a butterfly.*

*So the Christian goes through a change in form, a spiritual transformation into the likeness of Jesus!*

*It is a transformation from the image of man to the image of God. This transformation is from our sinful image into the likeness of Christ.*

*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. (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

**The goal of spiritual transformation is Christ-likeness or God-likeness.**

*Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (Colossians 3:9-11)*

*And may I remind you that, if you want to be like anyone else, you have the wrong standard!*

*But, how does this change take place?*

**By the renewing of your mind**

*The Holy Spirit is the renewer or leader and the word is His means of renewal! In it the Holy Spirit portrays before us the image of Jesus and what it means to be like Him! As we learn from the Holy Spirit, our thinking is changed so that we become a new person.*

*This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the*

*practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:17-24)*

***Paul makes clear the power of spiritual thought. The power for change is not found in us, but in the intrinsic power of the word of God who not only spoke the creation into existence by His mighty word, but now speaks into existence “a new creation”, His church. If you doubt that power, simply look at the world about you and see what God can do!***

***This renewal is not instantaneous but progressive. We must be patient and trusting as God moulds us into His image. Christ-likeness is not developed in a day; but with time we will see growth and progress in the life of faith. We cannot underestimate the time that we spend with the word of God, whether in public worship and Bible study or private worship and Bible study! This is the key to the kind of spiritual transformation we need and that God seeks. And when we give ourselves to such a life of learning and application of what is learned Paul says...***

**That you prove what the will of God is...**

***As we do this, we will prove what the will of God is***

The word prove, dokimazo, means “to test something” or “to discover” something. Then to “approve” what is tested or discovered. Thus, it is translated “prove” and “approve”.

*“With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.” (Phillip’s Translation)*

***The Christian comes to see all three things about the truth or the will of God.***

Sometimes people think that following the will of God is the path to misery, unnecessary restriction, and boredom! Instead Paul affirms the opposite:

It is morally right and thus, good for man.

It is acceptable, that is it brings God's favor. It is agreeable to man's nature.

It is perfect; it is complete. God has revealed all we need; hence we can know that our lives will be complete when we follow His teaching!

**Conclusion: Take your eyes off the false glory of this world, and focus on the glory of the risen Lord. Let God change you into what He created you to be—to a child of God like Jesus! And know that when you do, you will discover that the only thing you have lost is what you didn't need. Instead you will have found true life—the good, the acceptable, the perfect life that God created us to live.**

**Jesus, Jesus how I trust him; how I've proved him o'er and o'er. Jesus, Jesus precious Jesus! Oh for grace to trust Him more!**