

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer 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.

Review Romans 12:1 Are you remembering God's mercies (redemption, freedom from sin, Spirit)? Are you offering your bodies daily in service to God? The only reasonable response to all that God has done for us is complete sacrificial offering of self as instruments of righteousness.

Conformity to this world: To fashion oneself after, to do what is acceptable to most people; prevailing standards or customs; to put on an outward appearance, replication, costume.

What are some of today's customs? Some customs may be acceptable; it's not a problem to follow some trends in fashion or to dress in a way that is acceptable to the world. It is customary to leave a tip. We have customs that make being around people easier; greeting one another, saying please and thank you, chewing with your mouth closed. But some of what is acceptable to most people is not acceptable by God's standards. The world and its deceitful desires want to lure you into their flesh-feeding, self-promoting, pleasure-seeking, sin-filled lifestyle.

1John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

But be transformed: Metamorphosis, completely changed, to make a thorough or dramatic change in form, appearance, character. Transfigure. To no longer be like the world, but become Christ-like, fashioned to be Holy and pleasing to God.

Matt 17:2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

2 Cor 3:18 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.

In the upcoming chapters Paul will continue to give us examples of how our faith should be lived out, how we need to love, serve others, be hospitable, and submit to authority among other things. But how can we do these things? How do we protect ourselves from the worldly influences and fashion

ourselves into Godly instruments of righteousness? Examples like TV, music, reading, friends, etc.

Presentable bodies come from renewed minds.

Renewing your mind: To make new, improved, fresh, strong again. It is more than replacing or exchanging a to-do list, or merely your outward behavior. It is the complete transformation of thinking from self, serving the flesh and conforming to the world, to the heart felt desire to serve only God and allow the **changing work of the Spirit** in your life. His Part.

Isa40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Eph4:22-24 You were taught with reference to your former way of life to lay aside the old man who is being corrupted in accordance with deceitful desires, 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.

Ez 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within ^[a]them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

Ez 36:26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ez 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

2Cor4:16-17 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

God has done the work and enabled us, as his children, to respond in obedience and be changed. But we must place ourselves under the influence of the spirit in order to all this transformation and utilize every means of grace. **We** must do “putting on”. Our part.

Eph 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old ^[a]self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new ^[b]self, which ^lin *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being ^[a]renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

Eph 6:11-13 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against

the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

We are responsible for utilizing all the tools God has given to us, especially the written word of God, to be armed against the lies of the world, we must **know** the truth of God's Word.

1Tim 4:7-8 But ^[a]have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

2Cor 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

We are responsible for our minds, what we think, what we believe, what we dwell on, so we have to be aware. The world will sell an idea as truth but if it is contrary to God's word it's a lie! We have to take captive every thought and conform it to Christ. Philipians 4-8 it!

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is ^[a]lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, ^[b]dwell on these things.

Think about, meditate, and ponder. Take a lie and replace it with truth.

So that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. We know God's will by knowing the Word of God. The test of holding up our thoughts against the word of God to see if it's true. Trust the Word not your own thinking.

Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

This we know, everything we have studied has reminded us of the power of God's word:

If you long to break free from conformity to the world and be transformed from the inside out, then you must give yourself with all your might to actively and systematically pursue the renewal of your mind with the word of God, by study, memorization, meditation, and application. The discipline of continually being in the word of God is not optional or a "nice idea", it is essential to having a mind that is pleasing to god.

This is a spiritual journey, our purpose to grow in Christ, remove any stronghold in our lives, and keep our focus of Christ. Then we can be pleasing to God. Then we can test and approve what his will is.

Heb 12:5 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2Tim3:16-17 All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ^[b]training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Prov 22:17-19 Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you.

Prov 30:5 Every word of God is tested (flawless NIV); He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Now we know that a renewed mind is God directed, Spirit controlled, scripture saturated, and armed for action. This takes preparation and commitment on our part and yielded to God for his part.

Renewing your Mind – A Plan against Sin!

Purpose: to renew my mind with the word of God daily and throughout the day; to recognize wrong thinking and replace it with the Truth; to stop serving the flesh, break any strongholds and work to please God in all areas of my life. Discipline yourself for godliness. Like exercise, practice makes us stronger and better trained.

1Tim 4:7-8 But ^[a]have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

Heb 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Plan: to spend time in the Word preparing in advance for temptation, and have scripture ready for times I need to renew my mind. Identify wrong thinking, and replace with Truth. Be prepared for battle with all your weapons. Memorized scripture is essential. Target your specific weaknesses. Honestly assess your thoughts, don't justify them, but conform them to truth. Use truth/lie chart.

Gal 6:7-9 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

Renewing your Mind Worksheet

What does it mean to “renew your mind”?

What does God provide to enable us to renew our minds?

What is our responsibility?

List some specific things you are doing currently to renew your mind.

Are there things you would like to start doing or improve?

Identify an area of your life that you would like to stop conforming and start transforming.

Find supporting scripture to review when you need take captive your thinking and conform it to Christ.

