



**“Conformed or Transformed?”**  
**Romans 12:2**  
**Romans 12: Devoted to Service**

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

**Pressure to Be Conformed**

Greek: *syschēmatízō* - to form something according to a pattern or mold.

J.B. Phillip’s paraphrases: “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.”

World – (Greek: *aiōn*) – an age or period of time. The present age we are living in... in contrast to the age to come.

- The present age is “evil” (Gal 1:4)
- Satan is the “god” of this age (2 Cor 4:4)
- The wisdom of this age is foolish and passing away (1 Cor 2:6)
- Demas loved the present age and fell away from the faith (2 Tim 4:10)

**Power to Be Transformed**

**1. Transformation is a qualitative change.**

Greek: *metamorphóō* – literally “to change into another form.”

Paul connects transformation with “renewal” (*anakainōsis*). It means to cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming better.

**2. Transformation is a continual process.**

The verb is a present tense command – “keep on being transformed.” (Cf. 2Cor 3:18; 2Cor 4:16)

**3. Transformation begins in the mind.**

Greek: *noús* – the mind is the command control center for our thoughts, attitudes, feelings and actions.

Transformation begins in the mind. But it doesn’t stop there.

**4. Transformation results in knowing the will of God.**

Only a renewed mind can test and approve (discern, appreciate, determine to obey) God’s will.

## 5. Transformation occurs primarily through the word of God.

It saves us (Jas 1:21)

It sanctifies us (Jn 17:17)

It feeds and nourishes us (Mt 4:4; 1 Pet 2:2)

It guides and directs us (Ps 119:105)

It teaches, corrects, and trains us in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)

It exposes the thoughts and motives of our heart (Heb 4:12)

It gives us light and understanding (Ps 119:130)

It keeps us pure (Ps 119:9)

It sets us free (Jn 8:31-32)

It builds up our faith (Rom 10:17)

It helps us resist sin (Ps 119:11)

It equips us for every good work (2 Tim 3:17)

### **Discussion Questions and Action Items:**

1. What does it mean to be “conformed to this world?”
2. What are some ways Christians are tempted to conform to the world?
3. What do you do on a daily basis to renew your mind? Why is it so important to renew your mind daily?
4. Why is the word of God the single greatest means of renewing our minds and transforming our lives?
5. What is your main take-away from the message this week?