

## Romans - Part 54

So we are going to stay in Romans 12 and focus on verse 2 one more week, so go in your bibles to Romans 12:2

***<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. Romans 12:1-2***

The word “and” at the first of verse two is a connecting word, it is continuing the thought from verse one, but before we get started I want to remind you that you still have time tickets to the best show on earth, the not so talented talent show. Every year people miss the show and then say, “man I wish I had gone, this was better than the super bowl or the Olympic hockey gold medal game put together” so please don’t be that person who misses out.

And then a reminder that every Sunday morning at 9:15 is the adult class and every Thursday at 6pm is the deep dive in the book of Hebrews...

And then to remind you of the big party the last Sunday of March, it is our stepping over party and Laury and I would be so honored if you were all there and then it is Easter, this year is going to be over the top, Tim is leading and we want to pack this place out with people and then we are have a third party, Tim and Maddie’s installation service...

Laury and I are so excited for the next couple of months, we are stepping into the next season of our lives, we will unpack that for you in a couple of weeks, just what it is Jesus is leading us into, but we are so excited for what God is doing through the lives of Tim and Maddie, these two are like kids to us but more, they are becoming our pastors. They love Jesus, they love this city and they love this church. They are humble, teachable and full of the love of Christ and we get to come alongside, I mean each of us, and help them to become the leaders God has called them to be.

Colleges and denominations to not make pastors, Jesus and the local church do...

So, Pastor Tim is going to let Laury and I be the teachers for the next few weeks, he will be teaching the middle of March, we have to be in Idaho and then we will be back, we will lay out what is going to happen in our lives so you can be a part of it, and then we are going to party. Keep praying!!

So, back to our original text, Romans 12:1-2 This popular verse is often quoted by Christians. But we often don't pause and reflect on how it applies to our lives. The meaning of Romans 12:2 is incredibly practical and gives us a firm foundation for us to grow our faith.

There's some powerful truth in the meaning of Romans 12:1-2 that we need today. In this blog post, we are going to dive into what it means to "be not conformed to this world" and rather "be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

### **The Context Of Romans 12:2**

To better understand the meaning of [Romans 12:2](#) we need to take a look at the context in which it was written.

Romans 12:1 says, ***"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, given God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."***

Whenever you see a **"therefore" in the Bible you need to ask what it's there for**. It's often there to make an important point that we need to lean into. In this case, Paul is concluding all that he has presented so far in Romans.

***Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20***

***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God***  
***Romans 5:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit***  
***Romans 8:1***, and others all lead us to the “therefore” in [Romans 12:1](#).

In other words, when Paul tells us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice we shouldn't view that in a vacuum. He's arguing it's the only reasonable thing to do because of what God has done.

When we ignore this context, Romans 12:2 can seem like a steep ask. But Paul's not telling us to do this so that we can earn something, but rather we should do this in response to ALL that God has done for us.

*Romans 12:1, talks about committing to God and Romans 12:2 is about living it out.*

### **The Romans 12:2 Meaning**

Now that we know more of the context of this verse I want to break down this verse down so that we can better understand the meaning of [Romans 12:2](#).

In Romans 12:2 there key phrases or points,

- **Do Not Be Conformed (“Syschematizo) To This World Meaning**

That word conformed literally means to be “molded according to a set pattern”, you are pressured to be like something.

Roman 12:2 reveals an important truth, the world is seeking to mold us and conform us to its image. The problem is the world is broken and if we are made in its image we too will find ourselves broken.

The challenge is to view things through a godly lens and not a worldly lens. To be not conformed to this world means that followers of Jesus need to be on constant guard against being conformed to this world.

While we are called to not be of the world or conform to it, we are called to be in the world. Many Christians have completely withdrawn from the world. But that's not what Paul is trying to communicate here. We don't withdraw from the world. Rather, we should not be conformed to it.

After all, we are supposed to be a light for the world which is hard to do when we won't go anywhere near it.

- **But Be Transformed (Metamorphoo) By The Renewing Of Your Mind Meaning**

This word literally means to make a complete change in character or inner being...

Here's the contrast, instead of being conformed to this world, we ought to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

This idea of being renewed is not a one-time event, rather it's something we need to continually do. The world is not going to stop confirming us to its liking, therefore we need to constantly renew our minds.

To renew our minds means that we need to [stay connected to God](#) and remind ourselves of God's truth. When you find yourself drifting towards what the world says is best to renew your mind, remind yourself of God's truth.

When you sin, repent ([return to God](#)), by the way, the word repent really means to "change the way you think!" and step back into the life that God has for you. This is a lifelong process. And if we continually do this our thinking will resemble God's more and more. We will become more like Christ.

- **Then You Will Be Able To Test And Approve ( test/approve Dokimazo) God's Will Meaning**

This word means to test or approve something as genuine and not an imposter...

If we do not conform to the world and renew our minds the result will be that we will be able to test and approve God's will.

To "test and approve" means that we will be able to do what God says is best while rejecting the lies of this world. We will be able to see where the good life is truly found. Not in what the world has to offer, but rather in God.

Think of this like a filter. As we go through the world we will be bombarded with its messages and wisdom. When we follow this passage will be able to sort through what is true and reject what is not.

This is how we can be in the world, but not of it. We ought not to be afraid to be in the world when we are in a constant state of renewing our minds and testing what is true. When we do this the evil of this world will not affect us. Instead, we will be able to see it as God does.

### **How Romans 12:2 Applies To Your Life**

Let me end by giving you two ways you can apply this to your life.

#### **1. Who's Influencing You?**

[Romans 12:2](#) challenges us to pay attention to what we allow to influence our lives and decisions. Every Christian should take inventory of their beliefs and see if they are rooted in God's word or cultural wisdom.

Jesus wants for us to have the abundant life. He will direct us and point us to life-giving ways to live. The world on the other hand doesn't always have our best interests in mind. Therefore we should continually check our beliefs and see who we are allowing to influence our lives.

The best way to do this is to develop a habit of studying God's word. This leads us to the next point.

#### **2. Invest In Your Relationship With God**

There is simply no better way to grow your faith and renew your mind than spending time with God. This is what Jesus modeled for us, he continually spent time with his father. And we should do the same, and I'd bet you'd be

surprised at how a little bit of time each day can make a huge impact over time.

When we take the time to just take a walk and talk to God, just His presence changes us, takes us from the negative to the impossible, we see how He sees, we are changed and the pressure of this world and all its problems are no match for Him...