

## Christian Transformation

**Rom 12:1** - Therefore (Ch 1-8) I plead with you because of the compassion of God, to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your appropriate spiritual duty.

- **Motivation:** because of the compassion of God – gratitude/devotion in response to God’s grace blessings
- **Service:** dedicate your physical body as a living sacrifice for God to use as He pleases for His service
- **Duty:** Yielding our most precious possession (body) to God for Him to use to promote His kingdom

**Rom 12:1** teaches us the proper motive and extent of Christian service. Our love response to God’s compassionate care motivates us to devote our bodies to His service. Our bodies, being our most personal possession are to be laid before Him as a sacrificial offering like Jesus. **Vs 2** Paul goes even farther and challenges us to surrender our souls to the Lord to renovate our thoughts so that we can take on the beliefs and behaviors of Christ

### **Rom 12:2**

**Be not conformed** – negative **me** + P.P.Imp **suschematizo** – stop being conformed

- Negative + Present Impv = stop an ongoing action already in progress
- Conformity – form, fashion yourself, mold, copy, twist together, simulate the appearance of another
- 2Cor 11:14-15 – Satan simulates the appearance of an angel of light – outer appearance
- Conformity means to adopt the worlds ideas and standards – be programmed by the world
- Present – continuous action; Passive – surrender your will; Imperative – command

**World** – **aion** – lengthy period of time – eon – pattern of a particular period of history

- Worldly standards prevalent during the time of writing - worldly ideas that dominate the day
- The generally accepted ideas of the day influence all of us before & even after we are saved

**But** – **alla** – instead, rather, do the opposite

**Be Transformed** – P.P.Impv **metamorphoo** – inner and/or outer change; process of change into another form

- Inner – change of belief, thought, values, priorities – Rom 12:2; 2Cor 3:18
- Outer – change in appearance – Mt 17:2; Mk 9:2 – pre-incarnate glory
- Transformation means to change from the inside out – to change our beliefs, motives, desires, priorities and goals causing us to think, feel and behave differently.
- Transformation is a process that includes stages of growth, resulting in a new form of life

**Renewing** – Inst means **anakainosis** – renewal, renovation, and complete change for the better, new kind of life

- Inst means indicates the mechanics of accomplishing our transformation – renewing the mind
- Renewal is renovation – tear out the old and install the new – process of growth
- Spiritual growth makes us new within our hearts – new focus, loves and desires

**Mind** – **nous** – thought processes – beliefs, expectations, strategies and behaviors

**Prove** – **eis** + Infinitive = purpose – **dokimazo** – prove the value and validity of gold

- Renewed thoughts put into practice prove out the value and validity of God’s will

**Good, pleasing, perfect** – 3 adjectives describing the will of God

- Good – divine good – works for God’s good; Pleasing – pleasing to God; Perfect – w/out flaw

## Principles / Passage

### **1. All of mankind is to some degree conformed to the pattern of the world – build Old Man**

- Negative **me** + Present Impv 2 Plural – stop an action already in progress – all of you
- Eph 2:1-3 – describes man’s fallen state – dominated by death, devil, desire
- Rom 5:6 – helpless – **asthenes** – weak – man is w/out knowledge or strength and will be influenced
  - Sp death causes man to be cut off from God’s influence – the world’s ideas are all we have
  - 2 extremes – be like others to be accepted – opposite of others as a reaction – fear of rejection

## 2. Man is by design a copy cat

- Conformed – copy the outward form of others – take on the appearance of others
- Born w/out knowledge and strategies to relate, we all copy the relational style of others – parents
- Conforming – adjust the outer while maintaining the same old man inner agenda
- Genetic – temperament and predispositions – relational strategies are learned behavior
- Eph 5:1 – imitators of God – **mimetes** – copier – as beloved children – as children copy the thinking and behavior of parents, we are to copy the thinking and behavior of God our Father.
- 1Cor 11:1 – Paul – imitate me as I do Christ; Heb 6:12 – imitate faithful believers

## 3. Conformity to the world is to be influenced by the views & patterns of the day.

- World – not **kosmos** – world order – **aion** – age – views of the day
- Conservative times – legalistic and moralistic approach to life
- Liberal times – lascivious and antinomian approach to life – hedonism
- Balance – apply biblical principles in your day – light in a perverted generation

## 4. Man is a volunteer to either be a victim or a victor - P.P.Impv's of both verbs

- Passive + Present Impv = surrender to a process – volunteer to be influenced  
**Volunteer à conformed to world à victim of the devil's world**  
**Volunteer à transformed by Christ à victor over devil's world**
- Man's helplessness leaves him at the mercy of whichever system he chooses – God or Devil
- God's mercy is much preferred to the devil's mercy

## 5. Transformation is the process God uses to change us into the image of Christ

Metamorphosis **metamorphoo**: to change the essential form or nature of something - 'to become, to change, to be changed into, and to be transformed.

- Process involving stages of growth and change that evolves into another form – butterfly
- Process used by God to eliminate worldly thinking and develop Christ-like thinking in us.
- We yield to God's system of growth and He empowers us to renovate our beliefs & thinking

## 6. The means of transformation is renovating our thought processes. – Content of thought

- Renewal – **anakainosis** – to renovate – tear out old and put on the new
- Our old thinking must be taken out of the soul – rejected as a valid belief
- Biblical Christian thinking believed and adopted as the truth for the individual

## 7. Only the transformed believer can prove out the will of God

- CWL is more than a system of morality or even living by biblical principles
- CWL is being changed within to believe, feel, love, value and behave like Christ
- Transformation develops love for God and enables us to give our lives for His use.

**Peter**: influenced by the common ideas of the day about manhood – specifically how to respond to fear

**Mt 26:31-35** faced with the idea of denying Jesus & being considered a coward, he put up a brave front  
**Mt 26:70-75** but when faced with arrest, trial & death, Peter gave in to fear & denied even knowing Jesus

- Conformed – created the outward appearance of bravery but in reality he was very afraid

**Act 4:1-12** Arrested for preaching; in court with Sanhedrin; Preaches gospel to rulers of Israel

**Gal 2:11-13** Peter wanted the approval of James and Jewish Christians – afraid of losing their approval

- Ate with Gentiles but withdrew when Jews/James arrived – fear motivated hypocrisy
- Again Peter generated the outward appearance of compliance with the Mosaic Law

**Jn 21:18-19** Jesus prophesied that Peter would face a violent death from execution – crucified

- Tradition: AD 67 Peter was crucified upside down at his own request – not worthy to die like Jesus