

# RIGHTLY DIVIDING<sup>©</sup>

## Title: Transformation

### SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 12:2

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

### CONTEXT:

The book of Romans is a letter of instruction exercising the main truths of the Gospel that Paul felt were needed. The needs of the Gentile were similar whether they were in Rome or Colossi, which explains the universal message in the writing.

Paul’s thought is developed logically, but does not include all of his doctrinal truth. He had prayed for the churches at Rome unceasingly (1:9-10) and longed to have fellowship with them to impart some spiritual gifts so the believer maybe established (1:11). Paul wanted them to pray for him because of the dangers that threatened and his need to join them seeking to be refreshed (15:30-32). Paul is comforted that there is mutual faith between he and the churches of Rome.

Paul is ready to visit Rome and preach the Gospel. He points out that man is not righteous and then answers the question: How does a man become righteous? He reinforces this discourse by discussing how man should live who has become righteous in God. Paul later surveys the plan of God for Jews and Gentiles, he gives specific exhortation to the church concerning outlook, attitude, and actions, and in conclusion Paul shows his deep interest in the Roman believer.

### ROMANS 12:2

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EVETTE

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*Sermons for Pastors and Leaders of the Christian faith!*

## ROMANS HISTORICAL FACTS

**Date and Place of Writing:** Romans is assigned to the period of Paul’s third missionary journey. Since the Apostle spent three months in Greece (Acts 20:3) and he recommends that Phoebe (Cenchrea Deaconess) deliver the letter to Rome, it is likely that the letter was written from Corinth. It could be that another Grecian city (Philippi) was the place. Dates for the epistle have ranged from A.D. 53 to A.D. 58. However, the years A.D. 55 and A.D. 56 seem to be the most likely dates (ref. KJV 1053).

**INTRODUCTION:**

Romans 12:1 began the area of application. Paul gives specific exhortation for the Roman Christians concerning their outlook, attitude, and actions. There is this need to exhort the church as it relates to conduct and behaviors that are expected of Christians.

Paul suggests a few attributes for the believers of Rome: (1) consecrate the body and mind, (2) exemplify humility in the use of God's gifts, and (3) have identified character traits that are becoming of righteousness. This message is apart of the Romans 12 series provided by Rightly Dividing and will focus on transformation in order to understand appropriate behavior.

**MESSAGE:**

Romans 12 can be described as a partaker's life. Paul writes very clearly about letting your own life go and grasping a life in Jesus Christ by means of change. If you want change that will lead to abundant life, you must seek the changer and apply the guided instruction to carry out change. Before you begin the message, it is important to note three key points for your congregation: (1) the Christian life is dependent upon the MERCY of GOD, (2) as a believer you must YIELD, and (3) this life is a sacrificial life of SERVICE.

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

The Apostle Paul is suggesting to the church at Rome another attribute that is important to their life as a believer. Paul's use of the word “And” lets us know that an important topic proceeds his current statement in Romans 12:2. Paul states, “be not conformed to this world” could be regarded as a “Pauline Commandment” because it is a very strong suggestion against a behavior. Let's examine closely Paul's command to the church at Rome.

In the Greek, [*conformed – suschēmatizō* means to fashion or shape one thing like another]. However, scholars believe that *suschēmatizō* could not be used of inward transformation. Therefore, we must examine other words that would suggest some form of inward change for the believer.

The verb form of *fashion* which is also [*suschēmatizō* means to give the same figure or appearance as to conform to]. It is used in the passive voice meaning to fashion oneself, to be fashioned, be not fashioned according to, or be not conformed to. Therefore, we can believe that the proper use of the word, as Paul would have stated, would be fashion as it relates to conformity. The statement could then read in my opinion – be not fashioned according to this world. Let's think about this statement in a literal sense. Believer, do not be clothed like this world. I would suggest that the believer should not put on their righteousness that which the world has put on as carnality.

Paul is very specific to claim this doctrinal truth - be not conformed for *this world*. Therefore, believers must be conscious that there is a world in which conformity is important. That would be the world God intended for believers prior to the introduction of sin. Paul expresses how we can yet be apart of God's intended world regardless of circumstances that surround believers. Romans 12:10-17 is that world for the believer. Paul takes time to define the character traits of God's intended world – (1) show kind affection with brotherly love, (2) do not be slothful in business, (3) be fervent in spirit serving the Lord, (4) rejoice in hope, (5) patient in tribulation, (6) continue instant in prayer, (7) distributing – giving to the necessity of saints, (8) given to hospitality, (9) bless them that persecute you, (10) rejoice with them that do rejoice, (11) weep with them that weep, (12) be of the same mind one toward another, (13) mind not high things but

**MESSAGE CONTINUED...**

condescend to men of low estate, (14) be not wise in your own conceits, (15) recompense to no man evil for evil, (16) provide things honest in the sight of all men, and (17) live peaceably with all men. These are the character traits of a non-conforming world. If the Roman believer is not conforming to this world but rather the world of God's intention, how then will transformation from one world to the proper world be accomplished?

*“but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”*

Let's review closely the word transformed. **Transform** in the Greek [*metamorphoō* – *meta* “implying change” and *morphē* “form”] is **transfigure** which means the obligation to undergo a complete change which under the power of God will find expression in character and conduct that is *morphē*. Also, *morphē* lays stress on the inward change. When the believer is transformed, there is an inward change that gives an outward expression as it relates to character and conduct. The believer's character and conduct changes from the inside out and expresses God's power.

The inward change that is expressed outwardly through character and conduct change is a transformed renewed mind. **Renew** in the Greek as a noun [*anakainōsis* – *ana* “back” or “again” *kainos* “new,” no recent but different] means the renewing of your mind – an adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon the life. Paul is suggesting to the believer that there is an adjustment that must take place. The believer must adjust himself or herself to take on the mind of God in order to experience a transformed life. And, with the mind of God, life becomes easier to live and life is evident of Godly character and conduct.

It is important to note that a renewed mind

serves a purpose!

*“that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”*

The mind is renewed (i.e. taking on the mind of God) so that as believers we can prove the will of God. **Prove** in the Greek [*dokimazō* – means “to test, prove with the expectation of approving]. The believer must show to the world God's mind – giving outward expression to Godly character and conduct. And, by exemplifying Godly character and conduct the believer is proving that God's will is good, it is acceptable, and it is perfect. Proving becomes putting this Godly character and conduct to the test – openly demonstrating by your life that the will of God is good, it is acceptable, and it is perfect. Let's review I Thessalonians 4:3 to expound on demonstrated proving of God's will and it's nature of being good, acceptable, and perfect.

I Thessalonians 4:3 reads, “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.” As believers when you abstain from fornication, you are proving the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. Therefore, your conduct to abstain from fornication demonstrates - proves God's good, acceptable, perfect will to not be sexual active prior to marriage.

Apostle Paul in this Epistle to the church at Rome has given a command and biblical truth to release oneself from the world contrary to God. He admonishes and invites the believer to transform their mind, which will help rid the believer of carnality and evil. However, Paul is very clear that this can only happen by a transformation of taking on the mind of God and in doing so the believer is able to prove God's good, acceptable, and perfect will to others by an open expression of Godly conduct and character.

**Message Continued...****MESSAGE POINTS:**

1. Examine yourself for conformity! Are there any areas in your life that are like the carnal world? 1.
2. Be careful to know the world of God. 2.
3. When you became saved, there should have been some immediate transformation. 3.
4. As you grow in sanctification and holiness, there will be more transformation because transformation is a process over. 4.
5. Embrace the renewing of your mind. Work to understand and accept the mind of God. 5.
6. God's good, acceptable, and perfect will can be found in His word. Do not struggle with knowing the will of God – it's written. 6.

**PERSONAL MESSAGE NOTES:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**MESSAGE ILLUSTRATIONS:**

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## Concluding Thoughts...

Romans 12:2 is Paul's continued journey of helping the believer live a holy life according to God's design and purpose. He gives the believer truths that guarantee success at holy living. These biblical truths become life changing when we accept them for what they really are – God's principal for living a holy sanctified life in Him.

Paul hopes that we will take on the mind of God. We must appreciate that Apostle Paul included himself in this quest for holy living and sanctification. We are designed to be like Christ and exemplify the Father in the world. Therefore, our character and conduct should look like Christ and our Father to people that stand by in examination of who we are as believers. I hope that your congregation repents if their life mirrors the carnal world and not the world of God in having good, acceptable, and perfect character and conduct – it is His will.



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*Sermons for Pastors and Leaders  
of the Christian faith!*

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*The scripture and above reference has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words and other sources. The opinions of this sermon are from Dr. Evette Hyder-Davis and should be researched further by the recipient. Rightly Dividing sermon series is a copyright of Dr. Evette Hyder-Davis with permission for use but not distribution. For more sermons, please visit [www.evette.com/rightlydividing](http://www.evette.com/rightlydividing).*

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