

ROMANS 12:2 RENEWING YOUR MIND THE MIND MUST BE GIVEN TO GOD

Romans 12:1 tells us that we have to give our souls and our bodies to God. We continue in verse 2 with us giving our minds to Him. That verse concludes with us giving our wills to Him. That would mean giving up everything that defines us to Him. That is the soul, body, mind, and will. We are to present all of this to God as living sacrifices. Our priestly sacrifice is that of offering our minds.

The Relationship Between Verses 1 and 2 John Piper

That's what's wrong with our minds. This illumines the relationship between verses 1 and 2 of Romans 12. Verse 1 says that we should present our bodies—that is, our whole active life—as a living sacrifice which is our spiritual service of worship. So the aim of all life is worship. That is, we are to use our bodies—our whole lives—to display the worth of God and all that he is for us in Christ. Now it makes perfect sense when verse 2 says that, in order for that to happen, our minds must be renewed. Why? Because our minds are not by nature God-worshipping minds. They are by nature self-worshipping minds. That is the spirit of our minds.

1. DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

There are many translations of this verse that help us digest this.

"Do not conform yourselves to this age." NAB

"Do not model yourselves on the behavior of the world around you."

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world" LB

"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into it's mold" Phillips

Instead of being conformed, Christians are to be changed from within to be increasingly like Christ.

A. CONFORMED (SUNSCHEMATIZO)

Outward expression that does not reflect what is within

It is not representative of an inner heart life

Masquerading, or putting on an act by following a pattern or scheme (Schema)

Stop being fashioned or fitting into the scheme

Don't be forced into a scheme

Assimilation to the people of the world, or the sentiments, conduct, and customs by which they are distinguished

Christians are not to act as worldly persons.

Kenneth Wuest "Stop assuming an outward expression which is patterned after this world, an expression which does not come from

, nor is your representative of what you are in your inner being

As a regenerated child of God"

B. WORLD (AION)

Age The present sinful age The world system

dominated by Satan 2 Cor 4:4 1 John 5:19

The spirit of the cosmos or world of men who are living apart from God spirit of the age

The world's entertainment, fashions, vocabulary, music, attitudes

The sum of the demonic-human philosophy of life

Trench: "that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, hopes, speculations, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world

which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, but which constitute a most real and effective power, being the moral or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale, again inevitably to exhale."

It is the character of those who are dead in their trespasses and sins. They walk according to the course of this world.

It is not uncommon for Christians to wear the world's masks.

C. WHAT IS WORLDLINESS ?

A way of thinking, rather than just behavior, worldview

Values and behavior patterns of the world,

A systematic way of looking at all things

Right behavior will follow automatically if thinking is correct.

1. SECULARISM

Pattern of this world (Saeculum) age This age is all there is

It doesn't look beyond this world. It disregards the eternal. It is all about now.

This is the mental framework and value structure of the people of our time. This view is not concerned about God and His righteousness and holiness, salvation, judgment, and things to come.

Don't be secularist in your worldview.

R.C. Sproul says; "For secularism, all life, every human value every human activity must be understood in light of this present time....What matters is now and now. All access to the above and beyond is blocked. There is no exit from the confines of this world. We must make our decisions, live our lives, make our plans, all within the closed arena of this time." We do not want to be conformed to this.

2. HUMANISM

There is a good kind of humanism when we speak of the welfare of humankind. That is really humanitarian. But the philosophy of humanism is apart from God.

Everything revolves around man and exists for man's glory.

The Humanist Manifesto II "We find insufficient evidence for belief in the supernatural." "There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body."

It is about looking out for yourself.

3. RELATIVISM

An age that is mindless There is no absolute truth is the expression that this claims. Closing Of The American Mind "Almost every student entering the university believes, that truth is relative." The goals of real education—truth, goodness, and beauty---do not exist

4. MATERIALISM

Nothing exists but what is material or measurable.

5. PLURALISM

6. HEDONISM

7. PRAGMATISM

2. TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF THE MIND

A. TRANSFORMED (METAMORPHOO)

Act of a person changing his outward expression from that which

he has to a different one, an expression which comes from and is representative of his inner being Transformation happens inwardly being changed outwardly into conformity to our redeemed inner natures

If any man be in Christ he is a new creation. There has to be a radical difference between the new state and the nature they once were.

The change of appearance of one thing into that of another Christ's divine glory and inner nature were manifested in a limited outward way.

Matthew 17:2 2 Cor 3:18 This says it is happening Rom 12 say , let it happen. It happens by renewing the mind.

B. RENEWING OF THE MIND (ANAKAINOSIS) the gradual conforming of the man more and more to that new spiritual world into which he has been introduced, and in which he now lives and moves; the restoration of the divine image

A renewal, renovation, the complete change for the better

Our thinking is not to be determined by the culture or world around us but rather that we are to have a distinctly different and growing Christian worldview." J.M. Boice

"It is in the mind that our new nature and our old humanness are intermixed. It is in the mind that we make choices as to whether we will express our new nature in holiness or allow our fleshly humanness to act in unholiness." John MacArthur

There is a change produced by the renovation of the mind.

Colossians 3:10, 16

We are to spend much time with the things of God. We are to have Minds set on above Col 3:2 These minds please the Lord.

C. THINKING WITH A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

We are to think Christianly in every matter, even the mundane.

1. DOCTRINE OF GOD

This doctrine is where it all starts. He is the uncaused first cause.

2. DOCTRINE OF MAN

3. DOCTRINE OF THE FALL

4. DOCTRINE OF REDEMPTION