

Becoming a Romans 12 Christian Part 3 – Separate from the World's System

Introduction: Why are there so many decisions... ...and so few disciples?

Negative Command: “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world...”

“Do not be conformed”

- Passive voice
- Imperative
- Present tense

Translation: “Stop allowing yourselves to be molded by the influences and pressures of this present world system.”

Application: We are to be **SEPARATE** from the world's values.

¹⁵“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

1 John 2:15-17

Summary: The world's system seeks to **SEDUCE** us from our love for Christ by **PLEASURE**, **POSSESSIONS**, and **POSITION**.

Positive Command: "...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

"Be transformed"

- Passive voice
- Imperative
- Present tense

Translation

"But allow God to completely change your inward thinking and outward behavior by cooperating wholeheartedly moment-by-moment with the Spirit's renewing process."

Application

Are you shaped more by the **WORLD** or the **WORD**?

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

The means of transformation: "...by the renewing of your mind."

- Renewing your mind is a continual **REFOCUS** of a Romans 12:1 perspective.
Colossians 3:1-4
- Renewing your mind will always involve a **BATTLE**.
2 Corinthians 10:4-5
- Renewing your mind is a **SUPERNATURAL** work of the Spirit.
Romans 8:5-6

Summary

You are what you **EAT!!!**

Practical methods for “Renewing Your Mind”

1. **HEARING** God's Word Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.

2. **READ** God's Word Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

3. **STUDY** God's Word 2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth.

4. **MEMORIZE** God's Word Psalm 119:9,11

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your Word.

Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.

5. **MEDITATE** on God's Word Joshua 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

A tool for transformation: The “2PROAPT” Method

The purpose of transformation: “To get God’s best so that you may test, by experience, that God’s will is...”

- Good - winsome, attractive, beautiful, richly satisfying
- Pleasing - acceptable to God and well-pleasing to us
- Perfect - according to design, maximizing our fullest potential in fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives

Personal Application Questions:

1. What is your major “take away” from this message?
2. Why do so few Christians experience God’s best for their lives according to Romans 12:2?
3. We all struggle with the world’s system seeking to mold our lives – where are you most vulnerable? What has helped you the most to resist temptation in your areas of weakness?
4. Why is “mind renewal” so important? How does mind renewal and getting God’s best relate to one another?

5. Is there something or someone God wants you to say “no” to as it is conforming you to the world? Is there something God wants you to say “yes” to so your mind can be renewed and experience God’s best for your life?

Resources from Living on the Edge to Help You Apply Romans 12:2

Pathways to Intimacy with God, CDs - Chip Ingram

Stop Faking It!, CDs - Chip Ingram

Love, Sex & Lasting Relationships, CD/DVD series, Book - Chip Ingram

Transformed, CD/ DVD series, - Chip Ingram