

Winning the War in Your Mind – Renewing Your Mind

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

1. The Goal – Know _____

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Look at the three qualifiers of our sacrifice in Romans 12:1:
 - o Living
 - o Holy
 - o Acceptable – well pleasing
- The goal is to know and do the will of God.
- Look at the three qualifiers or descriptions of God’s will
- Good
- Acceptable:
- Perfect – without blemish

2. The Means – _____

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed...

- “conformed” – to take the same shape of something.
- J. B. Phillips: Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within...
- Being conformed speaks of our actions, our attitudes, our thoughts, and our motives.
- The goal is not to be like everyone else. The goal is to be like Jesus.
- Galatians 4:19: My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.
- The word means a major change.
- “Be transformed” is a _____ verb.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

3. The Method – _____

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- What is God's will?
- In part, to become the person God intends me to be.
- Kierkegaard: "And now, Lord, with your help, I shall become myself."
- We renew our minds by filling our minds with God's truth and filling our hearts with God's love.
- How do we renew our minds?

1) _____ – 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

- Craig Groeschel talks about "The Replacement Principle" – "Remove the lies, replace with truth.

2) _____ – Colossians 3:1-3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3) _____ – 1 Timothy 4:6-8 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

- John Ortberg: "There's an immense difference between training to do something and trying to do something...Spiritual transformation is not a matter of trying harder, but of training wisely."

Further Thought:

- What will you do this week to work on being discerning of God's truth and the ruts of faulty thinking?

- Will you decide to surrender control of your thinking to Jesus? What would “setting your mind on things above” look like in your life?
- What steps will you take this week to begin developing spiritual disciplines God can use to renew your mind?