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## ROMANS 12:2

## PART 1

*But be transformed...*

**READ ROMANS 12:1-2**

### INTRODUCTION

*When we talk about the renewal of the mind, it can be intimidating to say the least. There are so many things that we hold onto and fight to keep in our lives when, in reality, all things should be placed on the altar before the Lord as a sacrifice. (V. 1) Paul has spent the last couple of chapters in Romans discussing why we have such an amazing gift from God and why we should therefore worship and glorify Him because of these free gifts. (See chapter 11)*

*The question, once we have recognized that change and transformation must take place in our lives, is "How do I do this?" There are two answers to this question. First, it is important to note that, under your own power, it is impossible to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Jesus Christ must be the One to work in us to make us into a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Once we come to Jesus, we are made into a new creation that's soul purpose is to glorify and worship Him through the sacrifice of our own life.*

*Secondly, we are to take responsibility for how much freedom we give to Jesus to actually work in our minds to transform us and renew our thinking. Make no mistake, Jesus will do His will, with or without you. But, that does not mean that we can be Christian and be pushing the things of God and the will of God away from our lives. In Romans chapter 12 Paul makes a list for us to follow that will assist in "how" we pursue righteousness through the renewal of our minds. This list (found in verses 9-21) gives us detailed examples of how we can be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Paul does not mince words here and lays out some very difficult tasks and responsibilities of the Christian discipline. If we are to be disciples of Christ, we are to obey His commands. How we think and how we act towards one another and Him will define our relationship, not only with Christ, but with everyone else around us.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you read the words, “but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” what does this mean? What is Paul saying about our responsibility once we come to Christ and how we live our lives? Do we, as Christians take this statement seriously enough?
2. Read through chapter 11 and find why we are to glorify God? When we look at those reasons, does that change how we read the first two verses of chapter 12? Why?
3. What does it mean to be a “new creation” in Christ? Why do you think God wants us to be so new? What is the benefit to ourselves, other Christians and the rest of the world by becoming a new creation?
4. Read through verses 9-21 in Romans chapter 12. What traits do you think God wants you to work on honing? What are the easiest parts of this list for you? The hardest? How can you change and be transformed?
5. When Jesus said, “If you love me you will keep my commands” what did He mean? What commands? Is the list found in Romans 12 God’s commands? Why or why not? How do we encourage others to be transformed by the renewal of their minds without being legalistic and pious?

## WRAP UP

Following Christ requires a sacrifice. Our lives. We are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice and not puff ourselves up and claim to be something that we are not. Transformation means that we are no longer the same. It means that we are new, something different and that we should look different from the rest of the world. We don’t want to look like the world, we want to be completely and utterly opposite of the world.