

How Do You Worship?

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

❖ Verse Intro:

- **We must begin today by looking at the HOW we can give ourselves to God in Worship**
 - Paul has told us we must offer our bodies as a living sacrifice
 - He tells us this is our Spiritual Worship... or our intellectual worship...
 - Our Worship starts in the Mind
 - And then it feeds how we live
- **Today Paul is giving us instruction on the How we are to do this...**
 - I find this ever so practical for us today
- **He gives us two tactics to accomplish Living as a Sacrifice**
 - Two ways we can give ourselves to God in Worship
- **One is in the positive and one is in the negative...**
 - Meaning... one says do this, and the other says: don't do that.
 - He says **Do not be Conformed** to the world
 - So here he gives us what we are not to do
 - He also says but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**
 - So here is what we are to do...
- **I want to deal with them in Reverse order this morning**
 - I would like to start with the positive and move on to the negative
 - And the reason I would like to do this is because...
 - Paul makes a point of the positive...
 - It seems to be the main object of verse 2...
- **He says... Do not be conformed to this world...**
 - But Rather than that... ***Be transformed***... by the renewal of your mind...
 - And when your transformed you may test what is the will of God...
- **Outline: 1) Be Transformed 2) Do not Be Conformed 3) The Goal: Discerning the Will of God**

❖ Point # 5: How Can We Give Ourselves to God in Worship (if you continue from last week)

- ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

❖ 1) Be Transformed by the Renewal of Your Mind

- **but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**
- **We begin here because:**
 - I do not want you to take this in the wrong way, or wrong order
 - If I say to you first, be not conformed to this world but be transformed
 - You may think that not conforming to the world is how I am transformed
 - **But it is the opposite... it is the transformation that begins with the renewal of the mind**
 - That leads us to not conforming to the World
- **Let me give you an example:**
 - **You do not become a great athlete**
 - By staying away from things that keep you from becoming a great athlete

- Rather, you start with the idea that this is who you are
- This is who you want to be
- So you begin to train and live as a great athlete
- And along the way when confronted with the things that would cause you to fail
 - ◆ You are able to say no... because it is not who I am, and it is not who I want to be
 - ◆ You see?
- **When you ask another great athlete about how to become a great athlete**
 - You say... what must I do to be a great athlete...
 - Not: What must I not do
- **What We Will Learn:** We must undergo a change to become who we already are and that begins in the inner man and bears itself out our action.
 - **Transformed** Meaning: to become changed in appearance or expression
 - Comes from the Greek word *metamorpho...* where we get our word *metamorphosis*
 - A Caterpillar is transformed from and ugly wormy looking critter into a beautiful butterfly
 - ◆ Something becomes something different in a sense...
 - Interestingly enough... the English definition for metamorphosis is:
 - ◆ the process of transformation from an immature form to an adult form
 - immature to adult
 - **Same word** is used in Matt when Jesus is transfigured before Peter and John and James
 - Matt 17:2 ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.
 - ◆ Jesus was changed into something very different than what He was like as a humbled man
 - ◆ But, this was not unlike who He really is... His real nature... it came shining out like the sun
- **1) First Truth for Transformation: Know Who You Now Are**
 - To be transformed, we must know who God has made us to be:
 - 2 Peter 1:4 ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may **become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**
 - Colossians 1:12 ³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
 - 1 Peter 2:9 ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 - **Who are we?**
 - We are people who have escaped corruption
 - We are people delivered from darkness and transferred to the kingdom of the son
 - A chosen race, a holy nation... called out of darkness into his marvelous light
 - **We are different people now... If we have Followed Jesus by giving Him our lives...**
 - **On a Side Note: When we are not living as who we really are... We will be out of sorts**
 - ◆ We will feel like a crazy person, or we will not be content
 - ◆ Why is this...? Peter explains it after He tells us in 1 Peter 2.9 that we are a chosen race...
 - He says 1 Peter 2:11 ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
 - We will feel out of sorts when we are not living the transformed life
 - This is because there is a war being waged for your soul
- **2) Second Truth for Transformation: You Must Be Changed**
- **There is a fundamental lesson to be learned here:**
 - **We must be changed!**

- God has changed us, God is changing us
- And therefore we are changing ourselves
- **There is a lot of change that must be done**
 - Consider our former way of being...
 - So many things must change
 - What we think about finances
 - What we think about treating other people
 - What we think about the words that come out of our mouth
 - What we think about our possessions
 - What we think about social issues
 - What we think about how we treat our neighbors
 - What we think about those of different skin colors
 - What we think about what we watch, listen to, talk about, wear
 - The list goes on and on...
- **But, it does not start with a list of dos and donts...**
 - It can't... Christianity is not a list of dos and donts...
 - It is one thing on the list:
 - ◆ How can I become more Christ-like so I that I can bear His image while on Earth
- **Transition: Ok: So we see: 1) I must know who I am 2) And I must change to be who I am**
 - Now... how do I do this...?
 - **Well, Paul answers this for you when He says:**
 - Be transformed (become who you already are by changing)
 - By the renewal of your mind
- **3) Third Truth for Transformation: Renewing our Minds**
 - **Renewal** – reestablishing something in a like new or improved state
 - To restore it...
- **Why must our minds be renewed?**
 - **This is a very important question to be asked... And so important that we understand**
 - Our minds must be renewed because they are fallen
 - When we are saved, God gives us a new heart, but as we have said...
 - Our minds have not been made new...
 - **They are messed up and fallen...**
 - **Example: Its like that show on the History channel American Restoration**
 - This guys gets old junk and makes it new...
 - May be an old coke machine or an old gas pump or sign...
 - And it has become old and rusty and unusable...
 - So He puts in some time and money and restores it...
 - **Our minds must be renewed because:**
 - They were born thinking wrong things
 - Not being trained to know the right things about God...
 - **We know this clearly and easily when it comes to money and possessions**
 - ◆ Our mind thinks that it is our money
 - ◆ God says it is His money and His possessions...
 - ◆ Our minds are fallen to think we are to keep it to ourselves
 - ◆ God says, give at least ten percent... and then extra
 - ◆ But because of our broken minds... we make excuses as to why 5% is ok
 - ◆ **We think it is better to not give to God than to go without something...**

- Like TV, or gas, or even food... Food is not as important as Faithfulness!
- Our minds are fallen and in need of renewal

➤ The Way Transformation Occurs: Renewal of the Mind

▪ Paul tells us:

- Ephesians 4:23 "Be renewed in the spirit of your minds."
- The spirit of the mind must be renewed...
- The way the mind thinks... its outlook... how it is bent...
- The direction the mind goes must be renewed
- **If it went one way all our life when a pretty girl in provocative clothing walks by**
 - ◆ It must now go another way...
 - ◆ The spirit of our mind must be trained...

▪ So... You ask me how...

▪ 1) Well, it is first of all a work of the Holy Spirit

- Titus 3:5 "[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and *renewal of the Holy Spirit*."
 - ◆ Renewal starts with the Holy Spirit

▪ 2) It is done through the Word of God

- Colossians 3:10 "You *have* put on the new self, which is *being renewed* in knowledge after the image of its creator" ... ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
- Knowledge from God's Word is how the mind is renewed... how it is shaped to think like Christ

➤ Let's Have a Plan for Renewing the Mind...

▪ Let's start with Colossians

- Colossians 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

▪ We Must Set our Minds on things that are above...

- 1) Seek the help of the Holy Spirit
- 2) Seek to know God in His Word
- 3) Listen to and read those that expound and exalt the Word of God
 - ◆ Not those who bend it to their own ministry... even if it is worldly successful
- 4) In all of this see the Glory of Christ
 - ◆ 2 Corinthians 4:4 "The god of this world [Satan] has blinded the *minds* of the unbelievers, to keep them from *seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ*."
 - To be renewed we must see clearly the Gospel of the Glory of Christ
- 5) Pray that God would renew your mind

➤ Never Forget or underestimate the need for supernatural help in change (Favorite Part of Sermon)

▪ Verses you can Pray and meditate on to help you be transformed... (Pray!)

- Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- Ezekiel 18:31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- Ephesians 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,

- Ephesians 4:22-24 ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- Colosians 3:9-10 ...seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

❖ 2) Do not be conformed to this world

- Do not be conformed to this world

➤ What is the World?

- You must understand this to fully understand what it means to not be conformed to it
- **The World is the way of life that is void of God**
 - In thought, in word and in deed the world is in opposition to God
- **Now, this is tricky right?**
 - Because much of the world is very spiritual, yet not God-like
 - Many people like the idea of God and even attend church, but still live worldly
- **The easiest way to tell the difference is to look at Jesus**
 - We live wordly when:
 - What we say is unlike what Jesus would say
 - What we do with our bodies is unlike how Jesus would use them
 - Our goals are different than Jesus' goals
 - We handle our money and possession differently than Jesus would
 - We treat others in ways that Jesus would never treat others...
- **This takes great discernment...**
 - The World is in opposition to God
 - But the World will not tell you that...
 - The prince of the world is Satan
 - And He appears as an angel of Light.. He is very tricky
- **Satan is the Reason**
 - That false religions that are similar to the Christianity of the Bible
 - Have greater attendance than the Church of Satan
 - Satan would rather make his church look close to God's church
 - He is even tricky enough to put his own people in the churches of God
- **With that being said...**
 - For the Christian, being like the World should be easy to spot
 - Since they have the Holy Spirit within them
 - So... we are told...

➤ Do not be conformed to the World

- **Conformed** – this means to become like something; to be molded into a similar pattern
- **Examples:**
 - A glove conforms to a hand
 - A school kid conforms to his friends so he is not left out
 - An adult conforms to the patterns of his co workers so He is not looked at oddly
 - In the Bible:
 - ◆ The kings of Israel would conform to the nations around them
 - ◆ And allow the worship of false gods in their nation
- **Conformity** – is when we try to be like something else...
 - In the case of the Christian, He is being like what He is not...

- And it is fake..

➤ **Do not be like the World**

- This is our instruction... Do not be like this...
 - **Ezra 10:11 Separate yourselves from the peoples around you**
 - ◆ expound
 - **Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**
 - ◆ expound
 - **1 Peter 1:14-15 ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,**
 - ◆ expound
 - **1 John 2:15 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**
 - ◆ expound

➤ **Some specific examples given from the Bible of worldly living... called works of the flesh**

- **Works of the flesh are:**
 - Adultery – having a boyfriend or girlfriend not your spouse... or lusting for that
 - Fornication – immoral relationships outside of marriage
 - Idolatry – worshipping man made gods even if we call them Jesus
 - Sorcery – is in regards to taking mind altering drugs
 - Dabbling in the occult or mediums or psychics
 - Hateful attitudes, conflict with others
 - Being jealous of what others have because you think it should be yours
 - Being envious of what others have... not being satisfied with what God has given you
 - Outbursts of anger
 - Animosity
 - Greed
 - Drunkenness and partying in a worldly sense
 - Talking negatively about others

➤ **Conforming to the World is explained in the Parable of the Sower**

- One person who hears the word of God has it stolen away by Satan and his lies
- One person likes it but persecution or affliction because of the Word causes them to wither
- One person receives it but cares of this world and its riches choke it out...
 - In these three cases, they all remain like the world... conformed to it
 - Not transformed...
- The fourth person... hears it and grow in it and is fruitful

➤ **So... We are to be transformed by the renewal of our minds...**

- And we are not to be like the world... not conformed to it...
- And now...

❖ **3) The Goal: That you may Discern the Will of God**

- **that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

➤ **Let's Consider answering these questions:**

- **1) What is the will of God 2) Why does it mean to discern it**
- **3) How do we discern it 4) Why is it so important that we discern the Will of God**

➤ **1) What is the will of God?**

- **There are two ways to look at the will of God**

- **His will of Decree and His will of command**
 - His will of decree is that He is Sovereign and in control of all things
 - Like He was even in control at the death of Jesus while sin caused it
 - This will of God can not be broken or fully known by us
- **His will of command is his will that He commands that we follow**
 - He tells us not to sin
 - He says I want you to do these things
 - His will of command can and is broken often but it can be known by us
- **Here Paul is telling us that it is important that we learn to discern the will of God**
- **2) What does it mean to discern His Will?**
 - Here Paul says **“By testing you may discern what is the will of God**
 - There is just one word here...
 - *By testing you may discern*
 - It means to prove... to find agreeable
 - **Essentially Paul is telling us**
 - When you are renewing your mind with the Word of God...
 - You are then beginning to agree with the Word of God... you are learning it
 - It is becoming clearer and clearer and more agreeable to you...
 - **Example:**
 - **When I first began to be a personal trainer**
 - ◆ I had about 20 years of experience in fitness and athletics...
 - ◆ But I had very little experience in teaching others how to train their bodies
 - **One of the most important aspects of training is making sure**
 - ◆ People are doing exercises correctly
 - ◆ This is something I could always feel for myself
 - ◆ It is not something I just knew how to do for others...
 - **Over the past couple years I have been able to discern much easier**
 - ◆ If a person is doing it correctly, if they are in proper alignment
 - ◆ Now I can see proper alignment for knees and shoulders and hips and elbows...
 - **Why? because of studying... and learning and experience...**
 - ◆ This is sort of what Paul has in mind here
 - **This is explained clearly in other places of the Bible**
 - **Hebrews 5:14 “Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”**
 - ◆ Here we see that a person’s powers of discernment...
 - Their abilities to discern, or to understand
 - They are trained by constant practice...
 - You will not be very good at what you do if you do not practice
 - **Philippians 1:9-11 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,**
 - ◆ Here Paul is praying for the believers in Philippi
 - ◆ That they may be able to grow in their love more and more...
 - ◆ And their love will grow with more knowledge and discernment...
 - ◆ **Why? So they will be able approve what is excellent**
 - Sound familiar... just like Paul says for us in Romans
 - That they may be able to prove the will of God

◆ **The End result here...** is the they will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..

➤ Our goal is to be more like Christ... from this day forward until the end..

➤ **3) How do we discern it?**

▪ **We discern or agree with God when we Renew our Minds...**

- Remember that the renewing of our minds starts with the Word of God
- God's Word shapes our minds

▪ **Renewing of the Mind**

- Starting with the Holy Spirit and our digging in the Word of God
- Our prayer for help to be renewed
- Our constant practice of these things
- As Colossians 3.2 says we are to **set our minds on things above**

➤ **4) Why is it so important that we discern the Will of God?**

▪ Finally... we come full circle...

▪ Paul says **that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

- Do you remember the last part of verse 1
- Paul tells us to **present ourselves to God as living sacrifices holy and acceptable unto God**

• **Is that not what we see here...**

◆ We are called to search out and discern the will of God...

◆ The will of God that is good and acceptable and perfect..

• **And when we find it out... we have discerned it and agree with it**

◆ It has therefore began to shape our minds...

◆ And as our minds are shaped because they are in agreement with God's will

◆ We thus are able to live out the will of God in our life

• **When we are able to live out the will of God in our life...**

◆ **We have now become living sacrifices...**

➤ Transformed by the renewing of our minds

➤ We have seen and agreed with the will of God

➤ It has shaped who we are as a person

➤ And we are now doing what is holy and acceptable unto God

➤ And therefore we have presented ourselves to God in Spiritual Worship

➤ We are worshipping God in a right manner

❖ **What Have We Learned Today?**

➤ It is our worship that is in mind here...

➤ We want to worship God correctly...

➤ **Here Paul tells us that if we want to worship God correctly**

▪ We must renew our minds...

▪ This leads to transformation

▪ And then we are to pay close attention that we are not like the World

▪ This leads to the children of God presenting themselves to God in Worship

➤ **Spiritual Worship or service to God begins when we know right things about God and we think on right things about God, and then our bodies and minds are used in right service to God.**

▪ Are you doing this? Have you submitted all your members to God for his service

▪ Are you worshipping God with purpose daily?

❖ **Invitation**

➤ Let's make our resolutions and submit them to God in prayer today