
Key Christian Passages

Romans 12:1-2 – Body & Mind for God (Part 2)

1. Prodding – “I beseech you”
2. Premise – “therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God”
3. Presentation – “that you present your bodies a living sacrifice”
4. Parameters – “holy, acceptable to God”
5. Payment – “which is your reasonable service”
6. **Prohibition** – “and do not be conformed to this age”

συσχηματίζω - *suschematidzo*

Root **σχηματίζω**: II. trans. to give a certain form to a thing, to form, fashion, Pass. to be fashioned, Aesch.; also to deck out, dress up, embellish

σχηματισμός, ὁ, the assumption of a certain form or appearance, deportment, Plat.

1 Pet 1:14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

Do not be allowing yourself to be conformed to this age – do not let yourself become like the time in which you live.

Present middle or passive imperative – You will go with the flow; you will become just like those who do not follow Christ; something that WILL happen TO YOU unless you stop it. You will be influenced. You will become like this age: (appearance/dress), attitude, action unless you refuse to conform to its mould. Here we are commanded to refuse.

“to this age” – this present time; we are NOT to live like those around us; we are NOT to become like the world

- Do not allow yourself to be built by the blueprint/pattern/design of this age.
- Do not be pushed downstream or “go with the flow” of this age.
- Do not become like this age.
- Do not be modeled after this age, [but be remodeled by the renewing of your mind]

Are you like those around you? Have you become like those around you who do not know Christ or who do not seek to live for Christ? How ARE you different? Is the way you dress different than this time? Is your attitude different than unbelievers and believers who have allowed themselves to conform? Are your actions those of “now” people, rather than those who have been bought by Jesus?

1Pe 1:13-16 ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus

Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Phi 3:17-20 ¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

7. **Practice** – “but be transformed”

μεταμορφόω - *metamorphoō*

- ① to change in a manner visible to others
- ② to change inwardly in fundamental character or condition, ^{BDAG}

I would suggest that both are true. You are changed on the inside which then shows on the outside.

- Matt 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
- Mark 9:2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.
- 2 Cor 3:18 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 by the Spirit of the Lord.

8. **Process** – “by the renewing of the mind”

Ana - with a sense of *increase* or *completeness*,

By completely renewing the way you think

Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Mind → Understanding (the way you see things; the way you think)

- Luke 24:45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.
- Eph 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,
- Eph 4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

9. **Purpose** – “that you may prove what is the will of God”

Prove

- 1 Cor 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

- 2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified.
- Gal 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.
- Eph 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.
- Phil 1:10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
- 1 Thes 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Will of God

- 2 Cor 8:5 And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.
- Eph 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.
- Eph 6:5-7 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
- 1 Thes 4:3-6 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.
- 1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- Heb 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Pet 2:13-16 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.
- 1 Pet 3:15-17 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in

Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (cf 1 Pet 4:19)

- 1 Pet 4:1-3 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles -- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.
- 1 John 2:15-17 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. For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

10. Principles – “good, and acceptable, and perfect”

Good – 125x (means there are things that are GOOD, and things that are BAD) – morally good and upright

Acceptable (as in v. 1) – meaning that only some things are pleasing to God; others are NOT

- Rom 14:18 For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.
- 2 Cor 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.
- Eph 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.
- Phil 4:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
- Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
- Heb 13:21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

Perfect – or complete, or mature (1 Cor 14:20; Phil 3:15) – there are childish things, and then there are mature things.

- 1 Cor 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.
- Phil 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
- Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.