

Renewing Our Minds

Romans 12:2

2 “And be not fashioned according to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

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- Our quality of life determined by the quality of our thinking: Prov. 23:7; Psalms 119:11, 104; Philipians 4:8; Colossians 3:1ff.
- God’s truth is the most powerful force for positive change in the world: Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:11-13 – but one must choose to be influenced by it: John 8:32; 17:17; Josh. 24:15; 2 Tim. 2:15
- Christians are “enlightened” (Heb. 6:4); but we are challenged to “renew” our minds continually: Romans 12:2

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1. Conformed versus Transformed
 - * “Conformed” to the world happens when Christians do nothing, the course of least resistance: Matt. 7:13; 12:30; 13:20-22
 - * Many are probably more conformed to the world than they realize or are willing to admit: cf. Philipians 3:18-19
 - * We need to make it our goal to transform to the Lord’s way of thinking!

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2. Christian’s transformation the result of a “renewed” mind
 - * requires a radical inward change in order to live godly in this world: Galatians 2:20
 - * “mind” = intellect + emotions + will. Each must be under influence of truth: Prov. 16:32
 - * “Spiritual-mindedness” (opposed to “carnal-mindedness”) is our goal: Romans 8:5-11; Eph. 4:17-24 (esp. v. 23); 1 John 2:15-17
 - * Christian no longer views/appraises things “according to the flesh”: 2 Corinthians 5:16

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3. The result: “proving” what is the good ... acceptable ... perfect will of God.
 - * “prove” = to scrutinize, test to see if something is genuine > approve as genuine to judge worthy – make practical
 - * a carnal mind is a poor judge between right & wrong actions: Ephesians 5:8-10, 17; John 7:17; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

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- * He who is “transformed” is not only better able to discern God’s will, but he can more properly appraise the *excellent*: Phil. 1:10
- * Theorizing alone will not give one the answers he needs concerning God’s will
 - not hearers only: James 1:22
 - actual experience in living out truth will teach us much: Hebrews 5:13-14; 1 Peter 2:2-3; Job 42:5

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- * The Christian's life is a demonstration of the truth, practicality, and excellence of God's will – his life is Exhibit A that God's truth works: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Conclusion:

- Renewing the mind is a continual, daily process

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- transformations are difficult, even painful
 - * the more the world is ingrained in us, the more difficult the change will be.
 - * to stay in our "comfort zone" is to be lost.
- what we become, essentially, is the "mind of Christ": Philippians 2:5
- may our hearts & affections be in the right place: Colossians 3:2