

**BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND
ROMANS 12:2**

Introduction

Thus far we have seen that Paul calls for Christians to:

1. Present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.
2. To not be conformed to this world.

Tonight we want to look at Paul's third admonition found in verse 2.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TRANSFORMED?

"Transformed" means "to change into a different form."

It comes from the Greek word *"metamorphoo"* where we get our word metamorphosis from.

Example—An ugly caterpillar forms a cocoon and transforms into a beautiful butterfly.

Example—Remember the toys that came out back in the 1980's called "transformers." I guess they are still around now that they are doing movies about them. They would change from one form into another form.

Example—We use "transformers" to convert electricity into a different form.

II. WHAT IS THE MIND?

Dr. Charles Ryrie in his book "Balancing The Christian Life" says:
"The words used in the Old and New Testaments for 'mind' express a variety of ideas. The Bible has no word for brain; therefore the concept of the mind does not mean the physical organ but the varied functions of intellect, volition and emotions which are associated with mind in the Scriptures."

A. The Mind Involves Our Intellect.

B. The Mind Involves Our Emotions.

C. The Mind Involves Our Will.

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III. WHY DOES THE MIND NEED TO BE RENEWED?

A. Because The Mind Of Our Old Nature (The Old Man) Is Still Corrupt Even After We Get Saved.

Romans 8:7—"The carnal mind is enmity against God."
We all struggle with our thought lives!

Daily we combat thoughts of worry, doubt, fear, lust, evil thoughts, anger, malice, bitterness and the list goes on.

B. Because Of The Effects Of Wrong Programming.
In computer terminology it would be called "GIGO".
"Garbage In, Garbage Out."

Scientists call the human mind *"the most complex living mechanism in the world."*

Our brain is the most influential organ of our body. As it goes, so goes the human being.

It accounts for our ability to think, remember, love, hate, feel, reason, imagine, and analyze.

The average brain weighs about 3 pounds. It contains some 12 billion cells. Each of those 12 billion cells is connected to 10,000 other brain cells, totaling some 120 trillion brain connections.

Is it any wonder that scientists have stated that the human brain is the most complex arrangement of matter in the universe?

Some have compared the human brain to a sophisticated computer, but technology still hasn't even come close to duplicating its capabilities.

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According to Dr. Tim Lahaye in his book “Mind Siege,” the man who holds over 50 patents on the IBM computer, Dr. Gehard Dirks, says that he acquired most of his inventive ideas from studying the functions of the human brain.

Commenting on its complexity, he stated, *“If we could invent a computer that would duplicate the capabilities of the human brain, it would take a structure the size of the Empire State Building just to house it.”*

Our brain supervises everything we do—from the involuntary beat of our heart to the conscious decisions of life. It controls our hearing, sight, smell, speech, eating, resting, learning, prejudices, and everything else that makes us behave as we do.

Our eyes and our ears are the primary avenues that receive information that programs our minds and thereby influences our lives.

One aspect of the human mind can be illustrated by a file cabinet because it is the principal place of memory. From its files we make our deductions, judgments and decisions.

What we see and hear influences the thoughts of our mind. Our mind determines our actions.

Everything we see, hear, touch, taste and smell is recorded on the lobes of our brain, never to be forgotten.

Example—When I say 9/11 what comes to mind.
When I say orange what comes to mind.
When I say pig pen what comes to mind.
When I say burn what comes to mind.

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Example—Old people in the nursing home sometimes rattle on and on subconsciously about events and people they may have long forgotten consciously.

Some information remains in our subconscious files and cannot be recalled at will, as those things that are in the conscious section can be.

A sight, smell, or sound may draw it back into your conscious thought.

Example—You walk in the mall and a certain song play and your mind goes back to something in your past associated with that song.

Because everything we see and hear is indelibly recorded in our mind and the things recorded on our mind influence how we think and our thinking influences our behavior, it is of utmost importance that we guard our mind.

Example—Remember the serial killer Ted Bundy’s interview with Dr. James Dobson regarding the effect of pornography on his life.

James 1:14-15—“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Example—The Rock and Roll music of the 1960's and forward have escalated perverted sex, rebellion, drugs, and the occult.

Example—There are numerous examples of people viewing television programs and movies and then acting them out.

Many who wouldn’t act out what they view are affected too by Hollywood’s liberal, worldly agenda.

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Example—Evil Companions—*1 Corinthians 15:33—“Evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

What are you programing your mind with?
What are you watching, reading, and listening to?

WHY DOES THE MIND NEED TO BE RENEWED?

Because The Mind Of Our Old Nature (The Old Man) Is Still Corrupt Even After We Get Saved.

Because Of The Effects Of Wrong Programming.

C. Because All Of Our Lives, Prior To Us Coming To A Saving Knowledge Of Jesus, We Were Pressed Into The Mold Of This World.

We didn't have the mind of Christ then!
We did whatever we could to try to fit in!
In the areas where we couldn't fit in we were devastated!

Example—I was not athletic growing up. But I was under intense pressure to become that way. I couldn't and it was a source of frustration.

D. Because Even After We Are Saved, The World Keeps Trying To Press Us Into Its Mold.

There is constant pressure—At School, At Work, Sometimes Even At Home (if you have an unsaved spouse or parents), In The Marketplace, Everywhere!

IV. HOW DO WE RENEW THE MIND?

A. Recognize The Source Of Renewal!

Isaiah 51:10—“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

1. We Are Not Renewed By A Determination To Be Renewed—Though We Do Need To Be Determined To Be Renewed!

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2. We Are Not Renewed By Making An Outward Change—Though When We Are Renewed It Will Work Itself Into Some Outward Manifestations In Our Lives!

3. We Need To Surrender Our All To God—He Alone Can Renew Us!

Matthew 22:37—“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

B. Visualize The Reward Of Renewal.

What's in it for me? Why should I do this?

1. Peace—Isaiah 26:3—“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

2. Hope—Lamentations 3:21—“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.”

3. Proving The Will Of God—Romans 12:2

4. Becoming Like Christ—Romans 8:29

Recognize The Source Of Renewal!

Visualize The Reward Of Renewal!

C. Utilize The Resources God Has Given Us For Renewal!

1. The Holy Spirit!

John 16:13—“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:”

**2. The Word Of God!
(Psalm 119:9-16)**

3. Prayer. (Matthew 26:41)

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4. The Local Church.

Just as a limb cannot function properly apart from the life giving sources in the human body, so also a Christian cannot function properly apart from God's Local Church.

D. Replace Wrong Thinking With Right Thinking!

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Philippians 4:8

Delight In The Word Of God.

Get A Grip On The Word Of God.

Read It.

Hear It.

Study It.

Memorize It.

Meditate On It.

Let The Word Of God Get A Grip On You.

Obey It.

Let It Affect Your Thinking And It Will Affect Your Living!

Conclusion

Are you being conformed to this world or are you being transformed?

Are you feeding the flesh or are you feeding the spirit?

Quit dabbling in the world and get serious about having your mind renewed.