

Volunteers - Victims & Victors

Review Rom 12:1 - *Therefore (Ch 1-8) I plead with you, in view of and because of the compassion of God, to dedicate your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your appropriate spiritual duty.*

Knowledge - God's grace plan and compassion for us.

Gratitude – response to God's grace and compassion

See others receive the blessings of God's grace and compassion.

Victory – utilize God's grace provisions to defeat the devil's world.

Love for the Lord.

Reward – eternal monuments to His grace

12:1 teaches us the proper motive and extent of Christian service. Our love response to God's compassionate care of us motivates us to devote our bodies to His service. Our bodies, being our most personal possession are to be laid before Him as a sacrificial offering like Jesus. In Vs 2 Paul goes even farther and challenges us to surrender our very thoughts to the Lord and be changed to be like His Son.

Rom 12:2

Be not conformed – neg *me* + PPImp *suschematizo* – stop being conformed

- Negative + Present Impv = stop an action already in progress
- Action – conformity to the world
- Conformity – form, fashion yourself, mold, copy, twist together, simulate the appearance of another
- 2Cor 11:14-15 – Satan simulates the appearance of an angel of light – outer appearance
- Conformity means to adopt the world's ideas and standards – be programmed by the world
- Present – continuous action; Passive – surrender will; Impv – command

World – *aion* – lengthy period of time – eon – pattern of a particular period of history

- Worldly standards prevalent during the time of writing
- Application – worldly standards that dominate today

But – *alla* – instead, rather, do the opposite

Be Transformed – PPImp *metamorphoo* – inner and/or outer change; process of change into another form

- Inner – change of belief, thought, values, priorities – Rom 12:2; 2Cor 3:18
- Outer – change in appearance – Mt 17:2; Mk 9:2 – pre-incarnate glory
- Transformation means to change from the inside out – to change our beliefs, motives, desires, priorities and goals causing us to think, feel and behave differently.
- Transformation is a process that includes stages of growth, resulting in a new form of life – butterfly

Renewing – Inst means *anakainosis* – renewal, renovation, complete change for the better, new kind of life

- Inst means indicates the mechanics of accomplishing our transformation – renewing the mind
- Renewal is renovation – tear out the old and install the new – process of growth
- Spiritual growth makes us new within our hearts – new focus, loves and desires

Mind – nous – thought processes – beliefs, expectations, strategies and behaviors

Prove – eis + Infinitive = purpose – *dokimazo* – prove the value and validity of gold

- Renewed thoughts put into practice prove out the value and validity of God's will

Good, pleasing, perfect – 3 adjectives describing the will of God

- Good – divine good – works for God's good
- Pleasing – pleasing to God
- Perfect – w/out flaw

Principles/Passage

1. All of mankind is to some degree conformed to the pattern of the world – build Old Man

- Neg *me* + Present Impv 2Plural – stop an action already in progress – all of you
- Eph 2:1-3 – describes man's fallen state – dominated by death, devil, desire
- Rom 5:6 – helpless – *asthenes* – weak – man is w/out knowledge or strength and will be influenced
- Sp death causes man to be cut off from God's influence – world is all we have
- 2 extremes – be like others to be accepted – opposite of others as a reaction – fear of rejection

2. Man is by design a copy cat

- Conformed – copy the outward form of others – take on the appearance of others
- Born w/out knowledge and strategies to relate, we all copy the relational style of others – parents
- Conforming – adjust the outer while maintaining the same old man inner agenda
- Genetic – temperament and predispositions – relational strategies are learned behavior
- Eph 5:1 – imitators of God – *mimetes* – copier – as beloved children – as children copy the thinking and behavior of parents, we are to copy the thinking and behavior of God our Father.
- 1Cor 11:1 – Paul – imitate me as I do Christ; Heb 6:12 – imitate faithful bel's

3. Conformity to the world is to be influenced by the views & patterns of the day.

- World – not *kosmos* – world order – *aion* – age – views of the day
- Conservative times – legalistic and moralistic approach to life
- Liberal times – lascivious and antinomian approach to life – hedonism
- Balance – apply biblical principles within the existing culture

4. Man is a volunteer to either be a victim or a victor - PPImpv's of both verbs

- Passive + Present Impv = surrender to a process – volunteer to be influenced
Volunteer à conformed to world à victim of the devil's world
Volunteer à transformed by Christ à victor over devil's world
- Man's helplessness leaves him at the mercy of whichever system he chooses – God or Devil
- God's mercy is much preferred to the devil's mercy

5. Transformation is the process God uses to change us into the image of Christ

Metamorphosis *metamorpho, o:* to change the essential form or nature of something - 'to become, to change, to be changed into, to be transformed.

- Process involving stages of growth and change that evolves into another form – butterfly
- Process used by God to eliminate worldly thinking and develop Christ-like thinking in us.
- We choose to enter into God's system of growth and He empowers us to change our souls.

6. The means of transformation is renovating our thought processes. – Content of thought

- Renewal – *anakainosis* – to renovate – tear out old and put on the new
- Our old thinking must be taken out of the soul – rejected as a valid belief
- Biblical Christian thinking believed and adopted as the truth for the individual

7. Only the transformed believer can prove out the will of God

- CWL is more than a system of morality or even living by biblical principles
- CWL is being changed within to believe, feel, love, value and behave like Christ
- Transformation develops love for God and enables us to give our lives for His use.