

A New Mind in Jesus

What is it? How do we get it? How do we put it to work?

Rev. Tom Parrish

Romans 12:2: *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God the Father’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Real change takes a solid plan and effort. One of the pivotal verses about change is Romans 12:2, which tells us that we are not to conform to the pattern of the world any longer, but rather we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

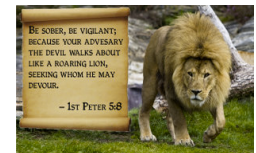


Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

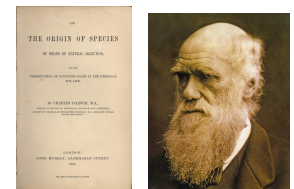
Begins with the words: “Do Not....” This is a warning!

We have moved away from the bible, ten commandments, the saving work of Jesus into **Social Darwinism**. Darwin published his theory of evolution with evidence in his 1859 book *On the Origin of Species*.



Three major premises of Social Darwinism:

- Life is based on **The survival of the fittest.**
- The end justifies the means.
- Therefore there is no God, no special creation, no right or wrong, no good or evil,
- And whoever is the strongest wins!



Listen again to the Bible;

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8



This is why Paul urges the Roman Christians to in our text to *not conform to the pattern of this world.* The words *“conform...to the pattern”* actually come from one Greek word, *suschematizo*, (sous-kat-my-dize-O) which means, **“to form according to a pattern or mold.”**

Furthermore, the word “world” is not *kosmos as in John 3:16*, the created world, but rather *aion*, or “age.” *Aion* includes all the thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, impulses, and aspirations present in the world at any given time,

As Christians, we must become **spiritual meteorologists**. We must become sensitive to the spiritual atmosphere around us, and able to recognize how we are being influenced, and whether that influence is of Jesus or of the devil.



Eugene Peterson, in his popular version of the Bible, *The Message*, translates Romans 12:2a as: ***“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit in to it without even thinking.”***



Christians need to **think** about what they are doing and why they are doing it, not just do what everyone else is doing.

On the other hand if we immerse our minds in JESUS AND HIS WORD, we will **think such as: Standing up for the truth. Not being ashamed of the name of Jesus. Proclaiming his gospel. Calling people out of the darkness of sin into the light of Jesus.**

GREAT BIBLICAL TRUTHS:

- **I am created in the image of God the Father.**
- **I have been saved and made clean by the blood of Jesus by faith.**
- **I am created for a purpose.**
- **I am an ambassador of the Gospel.**
- **I exist to bring spiritually lost people to faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **I represent Jesus in all things.**
- **I have already passed from death to life.**

While there are many reasons people commit suicide one of the major reasons is that **young people don't know: who they are, why they are here, what they are suppose to do.**

How do you break the Devil’s pattern of this world? “but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” The Greek word translated **“be transformed”** is *metamorphoo*, and is in the imperative mood, so it is a command.

Each of us was born dominated by our sinful nature, which is the **relentless internal proclivity toward self-centeredness.** When we come to know Jesus we now have the power to permit his heart, his mind, his desires flow through us.

“Serve one another in love. Love your neighbor as yourself. Live by the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5 & 6

“rewiring the brain activity.” When we walk with and obey Jesus our brain gets rewired. When we do we are doing what scripture says, *we are renewing our mind.*

Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

We cannot know or do the Father’s will until we have the mind of Jesus.

We don't get that mind by trying harder. We get his mind by **“thinking his thoughts”** which are clearly list out in the Bible.

Begin now by praying with me: Dear Jesus, I want to think like you think. My thinking about _____, is not you're thinking. Give me your power, your mind, and your determination to think in a new way about this person and situation. Amen.