

Series: True Discipleship for a Confused World
True Disciples Seek Personal Transformation by Renewed Lifestyles in Jesus.
Romans 12:1-2. Rev. Thomas Parrish

Jesus has called us to “make disciples”. How does Jesus direct us to transform are old behavior into behavior that is empowered by Him?

So, how do we cooperate with our transformer Jesus? ***It happens by faith in Jesus, listening to him alone, thinking like him, putting into action his commands, we can grow up as his disciples—***

The Holy Spirit (through Paul) tells us how we can be transformable in Romans 12:1-2. ***I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)***

Jesus is calling you and me to: **Dare to be transformed.**
Romans 12:2 begins by telling us to not be **conformed** any longer to the pattern of this world.

I learn 3 things from this:

For every disciple of Jesus, conforming to the world’s pattern is not a good thing will pull us away from Him.

So, if you want to dare to be transformed, you’ve first got to **Evaluate.**”

Where are you being pulled by the world’s influence and ideas?
What advantages or disadvantages have shaped your thinking and your character?
What is Jesus showing you about yourself as you read His Word?
After evaluating all of this, then you have **to decide to surrender to the living Jesus** and ask Him to TRANSFORM you into what He desires for you.



That’s what Romans 12:2 says. **Be transformed.** The underlying Greek word is our English word **metamorphosis**. Think of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly—a total change from the inside out.



What does it mean to trust ourselves to Jesus’ transforming power? What is our part? There are 2 aspects to this.

#1. Recognize that all of you belongs to Jesus anyway, and “Dare to Submit” to Him is for your good and pleases God. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

In fact, the bible says your body, you, is the **TEMPLE** of the Holy Spirit.
YOU are now the Temple of Jesus Christ. Your soul is a divine place.
Your actions, body, thoughts, are meant to reflect that reality.

We get this from **Romans 12:1**. *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

What does Jesus want from you and me?

Romans 12:1b *present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* Present means to offer over and over and over. Jesus says we are made up of: **Heart, Mind, Soul and Body.**

Why keep doing this? *which is your spiritual worship.* Spiritual worship is defined as presenting your bodies as a living sacrifice.

How do we do it? Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Transformation of our minds is a two-step process:

Step 1: Renewal of the Mind

In fact in **Philippians 4:8** we are actually told how to do it *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Step 2: By testing you may discern what is the will of God

Testing here in Hebrews means: *that the Christian's intelligence has been so "renewed" by grace that he now, by a holy instinct, can discern, in conflicting cases, the will of God from the will of self or of the world. And on this perception, he is to act.*

We now have spiritual filters to see clearly what is the truth and what is not. What is Jesus' will and what is the world's will. What is right and what is wrong.

When something doesn't seem right we can discern through the filter of Jesus Christ.



Jesus has called us to "make disciples". How does Jesus direct us to transform are old behavior into behavior that is empowered by Him?

Five things Jesus is asking us to do daily in order to transform our behaviors and minds into His:

- 1. Read the Bible for truth and then put that truth to work immediately.**
- 2. Ask Jesus at all times to give you his mind and discernment into what is right and wrong.**
- 3. Pray seeking the mind of Jesus rather than just telling him your needs.**
- 4. Put on Jesus' filter so that you don't look on the surface of another man, woman or child but can see the heart.**
- 5. Expect Jesus to present you each day with divine appointments, opportunities to make disciples out of many, many people.**

