

Slide 1: Renewed Minds, Transformed Lives

In a world that constantly tells us who to be, what to think, and how to live, the words of Romans 12:2 speak with powerful clarity: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

We live in an age of information overload and spiritual confusion.

Every day, voices compete for our attention, our phones, our televisions, our conversations, and even our workplaces, social media, advertising, political opinions, and philosophies that all say, “This is how you should think, what you should value, and what you should desire.”

Slide 2: The Quiet Revolution Within: Yet God calls us to something deeper and truer: *“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

When Paul wrote those words to believers in Rome, their culture was saturated with power, pleasure, and pride. The Roman way was to conform, to blend in, to do whatever advanced your status. And Paul says, **“No—be different.** Let your life show the difference that Christ makes.”

Because the truth is, when our thinking changes, everything else begins to change too—our character, our choices, and our influence in the world.

This transformation begins not in our circumstances, **but in our minds.** In the quiet chambers of thought, where God whispers truth and rewrites the stories we’ve believed too long.

The world says, **“Follow your heart.” God says, “Renew your mind.”**

The world says, **“Fit in.” God says, “Be transformed.”**

The Christian life is not about behaviour modification—it’s **about mind transformation.** Our habits, emotions, and decisions are all shaped by our thinking.

And that message could not be more relevant in the 21st century.

We live in a time of remarkable progress, but also incredible pressure. The messages that bombard us every day—from media, culture, and technology—are shaping how people think, often without them even realizing it.

Society tells us that success is everything, that truth is relative, and that comfort is more important than character. **But in this verse, Paul reminds believers that followers of Christ are called to live differently.**

Slide 3: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* **Romans 12:2**

In the first century, Paul wrote to believers in Rome—a city filled with power, wealth, idolatry, and moral confusion.

Sound familiar? The culture around them was pulling at their hearts just as ours pulls at ours today.

Yet Paul calls them—and us—not to be conformed to the world’s mold, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

This verse is not just a call to think differently; it’s a call to live differently.

Our minds are the control centres of our lives. What shapes our thoughts ultimately shapes our character, our choices, and our witness to the world.

In the culture in which we live, where distractions are constant and truth is often twisted, this call to renewal is more urgent than ever.

God desires His people to live lives that reflect His will—good, acceptable, and perfect.

That transformation begins not in the body, not in the emotions, but in the mind.

When our thinking is renewed by the truth of God’s Word and the power of His Spirit, everything about us begins to change—our attitudes, our priorities, our relationships, and our outlook on life.

Today, as we unpack this verse, we’ll see that a renewed mind produces a transformed life, and that this is how Christians are meant to stand out—**not through isolation from the world**, but through inner transformation that shines brightly in it.

Our world tries to fix things on the surface, but God goes straight to the root. He doesn’t simply clean us up; **He renews our minds**. He transforms how we think, what we value, and how we see the world.

Slide 4: The World’s Mold vs God’s Renewal

Paul begins with a warning: *“Do not be conformed to this world.”*

The word for **“conformed”** is a picture of something being pressed into a mold—taking the shape of whatever surrounds it.

The world has a mold for us: success without soul, pleasure without purpose, religion without relationship. **The danger isn’t living in the world; it’s letting the world live in us.**

Paul is telling us to resist its patterns, for God calls His people to a higher pattern—to be shaped not by the world, but by His Word.

When the church begins to think and act like the culture, it loses its ability to reach the culture.

So Paul says: Don’t be pressed into the mold of this world—break free from it by letting God renew your mind.

Slide 5: Mold Press Image God doesn’t press us into a mold. **He reshapes us from the inside out.** Transformation is the word Paul uses—the same word used for Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. It’s not cosmetic. It’s radiant.

Slide 6: The Fruit of a Renewed Mind

Paul says that when our minds are renewed, we begin to discern God's will—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

A renewed mind doesn't just think differently—it lives differently.

It means replacing worldly values with a God-centred perspective. **It is a lifelong transformation.**

It's a deep, internal change in how you think, which leads to an outward change in behaviour.

It forgives when the world says retaliate.

It hopes when the world says despair.

Slide 7: The Power of a Renewed Mind

It sees the unlovely and says, "You are beloved."

It loves God's Word, God's Work and God's People

It desires to be surrounded with people and things that align with our faith.

Slide 8: Man in Mirror Image Suppose you could change anything about yourself, where would you start? **Lots of us would start on the outside.** Would you be . . .

Skinnier?

Taller?

Shorter?

Better looking?

Would you change . . .

Your eyes?

Your hair?

Your teeth?

Your legs?

Your bulges?

If you could wave a magic wand and change your outward appearance, would it be a light touch-up or an extreme makeover? Would we even recognize you?

Slide 9: But hard as it is to change on the outside, it is infinitely harder to change on the inside.

What would you change about yourself on the inside if you could?

Would it be an impatient spirit?

Would it be a critical tongue?

Would it be a guilty conscience?

Would it be an inability to work with others?

Would it be a judgmental spirit?

Would it be a quick temper?

Would it be an inability to say no?

Slide 10: What would you change about yourself if you could?

Sometimes we do need to make outward changes. But it's not the outward stuff that trips us up. It's the stuff on the inside that we can't seem to fix.

But we can do something about it. That **"something"** is what Romans 12:2 is all about. It tells us that we can be transformed when our minds are renewed. How does that happen?

We Must Be Transfigured on the Inside.

Note the word **"transfigured."** The word for **"transformed"** in Romans 12:2 is related to the English word metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is the process by which a caterpillar becomes a butterfly and a tadpole becomes a frog.

It's a gradual change on the inside that produces a total transformation on the outside.

I used the word **"transfigure"** because this same word is used for the transfiguration of Christ, when his true glory began to shine through his humanity and *"he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them"* (Mark 9:2-3).

The word means to be changed or transformed from one thing to another. Think of it this way. When Jesus was transfigured, he did not cease to be Jesus.

He was still who he had been moments before, but for a brief time the curtain was pulled back, so to speak, and James, Peter and John saw as much of the true divinity of Christ as any man can see and still live.

In that moment they saw the "real Jesus," the true Son of God from heaven.

When Jesus was transfigured, he did not cease to be Jesus.

Slide 11: Image of Caterpillar. Consider what happens when a caterpillar enters the cocoon, only to emerge later as a butterfly. The caterpillar doesn't change its basic nature. Metamorphosis reveals what was always there in the genes of the caterpillar.

Caterpillars can't fly.

But they were born to fly.

Slide 12: Image Metamorphosis

When the caterpillar has been changed into a butterfly, it becomes what God always intended it to be.

Slide 13 & 14: Images of Butterflies

God is in the transformation business. Quote 2 Corinthians 5

God is determined that we will all be like Jesus in the end. Romans 8:29 says that we are to be conformed to the image of his Son.

All of us are works-in-progress.

Slide 15: We're not finished, not glorified, not perfected, not completed. **We're all "under construction."**

What makes us think that God will ever finish the job?

Slide 16: Sculptor: In my mind's eye, I picture God as a sculptor working with a rough piece of marble. **He's working on a big chunk named "Alex Craig."** It's a hard job because the chunk is badly flawed, misshapen, discoloured, and cracked in places.

Slide 17: Image of Sculptor: It's about the worst piece of marble a sculptor could ever find. But God is undeterred, and He works patiently at His job, chipping away the bad parts, chiseling an image into the hard stone, stopping occasionally to polish here and there.

One day He finally finishes one section of the statue. The next morning when he returns to the studio that section is all messed up. "I thought I finished that yesterday" He says, **"Who's been messing with my statue?"**

It turns out that I'm the culprit. I'm my own worst enemy. What I thought would improve things has only messed them up.

But God is faithful. He patiently picks up His chisel and goes back to work. He's chipping away everything that doesn't look like Jesus.

In my case, it's evident that He has a long way to go.

But I'm encouraged by the certain knowledge that He won't quit half-way through a project. What God starts, he finishes. You can take that to the bank.

Slide 18: Closing Application

Folks, God is not asking you to fix yourself. **He's inviting you to be transformed.** To lay your mind on the altar and say, "Lord, renew me."

To let go of the world's mold and receive the Spirit's metamorphosis.

The greatest evidence of a renewed mind is a changed life—a life that reflects the love, humility, and saving power of Jesus Christ.

The renewal of our minds is for all who are willing. And when your mind is made new, your life will follow.

Slide 19: Closing Challenge What mindset is God asking you to lay on the altar today?

So Let God Transform You. Let Him Change the Way You Think.

And you will become—day by day, thought by thought—the person He already sees in you.

Engraved on the tombstone of Ruth Graham are these words:

Slide: 20 “End of Construction. Thank You for Your Patience.”

Slide 21: Image Tombstone

Shhhh. Do you hear the faint sound of hammering and sawing on the inside?

Quiet. When God is finally finished, you will be like Jesus.

Slide 22: Philippians 1:6 *“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*