



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Power to Change Part #3 – The Power of Changing Your Mind

Small Group Discussion Guide on Romans 12:1-2

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon aligns with the core value of a **Biblical Worldview** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. We believe that it is critical to develop a Biblical Worldview in life. It is necessary to produce hope, life, justice, action, and victorious living in the life of a believer. (Romans 12:2)

This sermon teaches us that living out a Biblical Worldview is at the very heart of “The Power of Changing Your Mind.” Paul teaches that true transformation begins with a renewed mind that refuses to be squeezed into the world’s mold and instead is shaped by the mercy and truth of God. As believers learn to present their bodies as living sacrifices and let God’s Word renew their thinking, they begin to see every decision, habit, and response through the lens of Scripture rather than culture, walking in the hope, action, and victorious living promised in this core value.

Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

“Observing God’s Word”

Imagine a believer standing at a crossroads—pulled by the noise of the culture on one side and the quiet call of Christ on the other—realizing that the direction of the mind will determine the direction of the life. Romans 12:1-2 bursts into that moment like a fresh wind, calling weary Christians in a confused world to trade complacent thinking for Christ-centered transformation.

Let’s start the study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) as a group, family, or individual, letting God’s Word sink in. Picture Paul placing a pastoral arm around believers living in a chaotic culture, urging them by the mercies of God to present their bodies as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of their minds so they can discern God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will.

Core Questions

- What words or phrases in Romans 12:1-2 stand out to you (Ex: “living sacrifice,” “do not be conformed,” or “be transformed”)? Why are they significant in today’s culture?
- How does the picture of Rome—a city filled with idols, compromise, and pressure to “fit in”—help you understand the challenge Paul is giving to Christians in these verses?
- In what ways have you seen the “direction of your thinking” shape the “direction of your life,” either toward the Lord or away from Him?

Section #2 – EXPLORE

“Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

As we explore Romans 12:1-2, we discover that Paul is writing to ordinary believers surrounded by spiritual corruption and cultural confusion, asking them to experience a change so deep in their thinking that it reshapes the way they live every day. He reminds them that after eleven chapters of God’s mercy and grace, the only reasonable response is to surrender their lives as living sacrifices and refuse to let the world press them into its mold.

The sermon explains that the battle ground is the mind: the world constantly attempts to define how we think about success, identity, morality, and truth, yet God calls His people to be transformed by the renewal of their minds through His Word and Spirit. In a culture where many now define maturity as “keeping an open mind and accepting every lifestyle,” Paul’s challenge becomes a clarifying call to anchor every thought and decision in God’s unchanging truth rather than drifting with popular opinions.

Quote – “Where your mind goes, your life follows because you become what you think about most of the time.”

- How does this quote help you understand why Paul begins the practical section of Romans with a command about the mind rather than about circumstances or behavior?

Truth #1 – Clarify the Call: Turn Your Daily Decisions into Daily Surrender (Romans 12:1)

Paul begins by urging believers, in view of God’s mercies, to present their bodies as living sacrifices—holy and acceptable to God—which he describes as their spiritual worship. First-century Christians who had watched sacrifices laid upon the altar would have felt the weight of this call, realizing that their whole lives now belonged to the Lord, not as a casual nod but as a decisive surrender of plans, ambitions, and desires.

The sermon notes that in a world where many Christians quietly ask, “What do I prefer?” or “What will others approve?” instead of “What does God’s Word say?”, Romans 12:1 becomes a clarifying call to live differently by letting every ordinary choice become an act of worship and surrender to Christ.

- How does viewing your body and life as a “living sacrifice” change the way you think about daily routines such as work, school, media, or relationships?
- The sermon describes modern culture as facing a crisis of faith in which many sincere beliefs contradict God’s Word. Where do you feel that tension most in your own life, and how might surrendering that area to the Lord be an act of true worship?

Truth #2 – Choose Truth Over Trends: Flip the Script and Build Your Life on God’s Word (Romans 12:2a)

In the first half of verse 2, Paul warns believers not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewal of their minds, using a word for “conformed” that pictures soft clay being pressed into a mold. The sermon explains that this kind of conformity is outward, temporary, and unstable, describing people who allow external pressures—opinions, media, acceptance—to reshape their convictions rather than letting God’s truth define them.

- Where do you most feel the pressure to let the world “squeeze you into its mold” – in what you watch, how you define success, or how you respond to moral issues?
- How might a consistent, intentional time in Scripture help renew your mind in that specific area, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you from the inside out? (See the sermon’s use of Colossians 3:2.)

Truth #3 – Connect Truth to Your Steps: Learn God’s Will Through His Word and Live It Out Today (Romans 12:2b)

In the final phrase of verse 2, Paul explains that a renewed mind enables believers “by testing” to discern what the will of God is – what is good, acceptable, and perfect. The sermon emphasizes that this kind of discernment does not come from intuition alone but from a mind saturated with Scripture, where God’s Word is stored in the heart like a treasured possession that quietly guides choices and protects against sin.

When believers neglect this discernment, their hearts become vulnerable to counterfeit ideas that look appealing but lack the substance of truth, much like cheap replicas that fall apart in the wash. However, as Christians learn to test every option, opinion, and opportunity against the truth of God’s Word, their lives begin to “prove” God’s will truly is good, pleasing, and complete.

- Can you think of a time when following God’s Word protected you from a decision that looked attractive but would have led to regret? How does that experience strengthen your confidence in Scripture’s wisdom?
- What is one area where you need discernment about God’s will, and how could storing up His Word in your heart (Psalm 119:11) help you test and approve what He desires?

Section #3 – EMBRACE

“Applying God’s Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you have learned to your life this week. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Romans 12:1-2 in your home, workplace, and community.

Action Step #1 – Present Your Life as a Living Sacrifice

Take time this week to prayerfully “present your body” to the Lord, perhaps by kneeling or lifting your hands, and verbally surrender your plans, schedule, and desires to Him as an act of worship.

- Identify one daily decision—how you speak to a family member, how you use your phone, or how you approach work—that you will intentionally turn into an act of worshipful surrender instead of a reflex of preference.

Action Step #2 – Renew Your Mind with Scripture

Commit to a specific plan for renewing your mind, such as reading Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:2, and Proverbs 4:23 each day this week, asking the Holy Spirit, “How does this truth reshape the way I think today?”

- Choose one area where cultural pressure is strong and write down a verse that speaks directly to that issue, posting it where you will see it often so that God's Word becomes the "recipe" you follow instead of shifting trends.

Action Step #3 – Practice Discernment in Daily Choices

Before making a significant decision this week—about time, money, relationships, or entertainment—pause to ask, "Does this align with what is good, acceptable, and perfect in God's eyes?" and seek guidance from Scripture and prayer.

Memorize and Reflect

Memorize the sermon's key verse, Romans 12:2 (ESV): "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."

Closing Challenge

As a group or family, pray for one another to experience "The Power of Changing Your Mind" by presenting your lives fully to the Lord, refusing to be conformed to this world, and allowing the Holy Spirit to renew your minds through His Word. Ask God to help you live out a true Biblical Worldview this week—seeing every decision, relationship, and challenge through the lens of Scripture—so that others may see the hope, life, and victorious living that flow from a mind transformed by Christ.