

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 38 “The Renewed Mind”

I. Introduction and Review - We are continuing our series on **Romans** today. We have been focusing on reformation and how Paul sought to reform the church in Rome.

A. The specific issue Paul was dealing with was strife between the Jewish and Gentile home churches. The Jews kept trying to get the Gentile to keep the the law, while the Gentiles had an attitude of superiority because the Jews were the ones who crucified Jesus. They sort of thought God was done with Israel. All of this created a ton of strife and kept them from impacting the culture in Rome the way they should have.

B. After spending 3 chapters explaining God’s redemptive plan which included both the Jews and Gentiles, Paul makes a shift in **Romans 12** about how these people should live in the light of everything God had done for them.

1. Last week we talked about being a living sacrifice (we yield everything to Jesus, which is a work of the spirit, not a work of the flesh).
2. Once we endeavor to yield everything to Jesus, the next step to live out God’s plan for our lives is to transform how we think.
 - a. Many people yield everything to Jesus, but don’t change how they think so they don’t get Jesus’s results in life.
 - b. My story about overcoming hurt and depression because of a relationship ending when I was 21. A friend asked me what I was doing spiritually and I said, “I’m praying.” He asked me if I was in the word and I said, “Not really.” He then told me that the number one thing I needed to do was get into the word because it was seed that would transform how I think so the hurt and depression would leave and stay gone.
 - c. Requesting prayers for peace example - **Philippians 4:6-8**. The move of God starts through power, but is sustained through transformed thought.

II. The Renewed Mind

A. **Romans 12:2**

1. Do not be conformed - fashioned after (poured into the mold of) - water in glass example. When placed in new container the water changes shape.
2. Be transformed - **metamorphóō** - to transform (literally or figuratively, "metamorphose"):—change, transfigure, transform.
 - a. First time this word is used in Bible is **Matthew 17:1-2**. The transformed life is as supernatural as the transfiguration.

- b. Transfigure - transform into something more beautiful or elevated. We are called to an elevated life. God wants us to radiate His light so that what happened on the inside is observable on the outside.
- c. Butterfly example - Caterpillar spins a cocoon and crawls inside then releases enzymes that dissolves cells and leaves it as a goo. From this point that a group of specialized cells called imaginal discs get to work, developing the insect's new body and wings in a short time period. After this process, the caterpillar comes out of the coon as a butterfly.
 - i. Important question. Where did the caterpillar get its wings from? Where did it get its antennae? It was on the inside of the caterpillar.
 - ii. When you put on kindness or put on mercy or put on love, where was it to begin with? One the inside of you.
 - iii. **Colossians 3:9-14** We put on the new spirit man who was renewed in the image of Jesus and put on kindness, mercy, love. We put them on (our actions) like we put on a pair of jeans or shirt. We don't have to feel them to put them on. We put take them out of the drawers of our spirit and put them on by faith and often our feelings will follow our faith.

3. Renewing - **anakainōsis**, from **G341**; renovation:—renewing. **A renovated mind leads to a renovated life.**

- a. Jesus did not come to fix up your life (Add a little paint to the wall, give you a new sofa, and hang a picture. Jesus came to renovate your entire life. He wants to change the substructure, tear out walls, change the plumbing and heating systems, etc. He wants your life looking like a new house not the same house with a little paint.
- b. Caterpillar example - Jesus didn't just come to give the caterpillar wings and leave it bound to the ground. He came to reshape its life and give it the capacity to fly. It can now operate in 2 dimension, the land and sky. The same should be true for us with the supernatural and natural. We should operate in both so seamlessly that the supernatural is natural.

4. Proving the good, acceptable, perfect will of God..

- a. Prove - **dokimázō**, =; from **G1384**; to test; by implication, to approve. Ex: Healing - need to know its God's will to approve of healing.
- b. God doesn't have 3 wills. He has one will. It is good, perfect (mature - God wants to bring us to a place of full maturity) and acceptable (well pleasing). **God wants to bring us all to a place in Him that our lives demonstrate His goodness because what was do is fully like Him, which is well pleasing.**

III. Conclusion - Romans 12:2 TPT God spoke to me 3 years ago as I was on my way home from dropping Paul off at school. I was listening to the radio and they were talking about another new strain of Covid coming out and something else crazy our government was doing.

As I listened I began to think about all the craziness going on in our country with riots, questions about gender identity, stuff going on in the schools and I began to pray. I initially cried for revival and then the thought hit me about a reformation (without really knowing what I was asking for). I knew in reformation enzymes are released that causes the existing structure to dissolve itself and for a season what is left looks unrecognizable. I began to wonder, do I really want that for our nation?

As much as I didn't like the direction we were headed, the America I had was all I had ever known and I loved so much about it. It scared me to pray for reformation because I knew it meant God would have to tear down some existing structures we've clung to in order to bring something newer and greater. I was scared, but I began to pray because I knew it was the will of God. I knew it would be better on the other side of the cocoon.

Reformation is scary. Think about Martin Luther. He was kicked out of the Catholic Church and had his life threatened simply because he wanted to see God's word exalted above religious tradition and the culture of the day. Thank God for Martin Luther because he faced his fear and stayed with God's word and we still feel the impact of the reformation 500 years later. Reformations have greater long term impact than revivals because they are word focused, more than spirit, miracles focused. They include the move of the spirit, but take us to a place where we transform how we think to how God thinks. That sustains the move of God.

Get into the word. Let it change how you think!

A. Transition to Herbert