

September 16, 2020

Be Ye Transformed

The world is constantly trying to influence our thoughts, attitudes, and actions to conform us to the world's way of thinking. This year in our Bible study, we will be looking at five battlefields or areas in our life in which Satan seeks to conform us to the world. The battlefields we will be studying are, entertainment, appearance, stimulants, the occult, and self-image. This spiritual warfare takes place in the mind. Paul continues in Romans 12:2, "...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." The word transformed means to change and comes from the same root word as the word metamorphosis. If we are going to please God, a change must take place from thinking like to world to thinking according to God's Word. This transformation is not a once and done, but an ongoing process. The word renewing means renovation. Anyone who have ever gone through a renovation at home or at work knows that it is a process.

To understand the mental process, consider the process in terms of a home renovation. If you wanted to renovate or remodel your home, what would you need to do? First, you would have to remove everything out of the rooms you are planning to renovate. If we are to renew the mind, we must get rid of our old way of thinking. Sometimes the renovation requires one to tear out walls, plumbing, wiring, etc. Essentially, we must tear down the foundations that support our worldly mindset. This is not an easy process. Old habits of thinking are hard to break.

Second, you have to plan what you want each room to look like at the end of the process. You have to select the style of flooring, color of paint, layout of the room, type of plumbing and electrical fixtures, etc. This requires a great deal of time looking through samples, getting suggestions, and asking questions. If you want to think like God, you must discern how God thinks. This requires time studying and meditating upon the Word of God.

Third, you have to build the new walls, apply the new paint, install the new flooring, etc. Once we tear down the world's way of thinking and study God's Word to discern how we ought to think, we must then apply what we have learned to our own heart and mind. This is where most Christians fail in their transformation. They don't want to think like the world. They want to please God and even enjoy the preaching of God's Word, but liking what they hear doesn't mean it will change the way they think or live. Take a few moments to read the parallel passages of **Ephesians 4:20-32** and **Colossians 3:1-10**. Renewing involves putting off and putting on. What are some worldly ideas that you need to put off? Now contrast these thoughts with God's thoughts. For example, the world says to be great, we must exalt ourselves. God says, we must humble ourselves and he will exalt us in due time. Read **Romans 1:20-32** and consider how God's thoughts are not the world's thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."