



Not Conformed to the World's Standards

Part 2 of Vital characteristics of a True Christian

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Last week we looked at how a *true* Christian is one who is *saved by grace*. We did nothing to help attain our salvation, and likewise we can do nothing to maintain it. Now we look at the next logical step in our walk with our Saviour; reasonable act of service in light of His mercies.

Romans 12:1-2 *T*beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This is the Fourth “Therefore” in this book:

- Rom. 3:20 – Presenting our hopeless condition before God
- Rom. 5:1 – Our Justification
- Rom. 8:1 – Assurance of us having no Condemnation
- Rom. 12:1 – Our consequent dedication in light of what He has done

1. Give God Your *Body* – Rom. 12:1

The Christian’s world view is to be vastly different than the world’s:

- A. Our body *belongs* to God (I Cor. 6:20)
- B. The *Spirit* lives in our body (Rom. 8:9)
- C. Our body is God’s *temple* (I Cor. 6:19)

Our responsibility – to “present”

- Not as instruments of unrighteousness (Rom. 6:13)
- As a bride is *presented* for the first time to her husband
- It is a commitment of our body to the Lord once for all

What is the *reason* for this?

- It is the *right* response “by the mercies of God” or “in view of all God has done”
- It is our *reasonable service* or *spiritual worship*- every day is worship to God as we yield our bodies to Him

2. Give God Your *Mind* – Rom. 12:2

The world *wants* to control your mind- Eph. 4:17-20

- The renewing of our mind is done through feeding on the Word of God
- What you feed on the most will determine the outcome

3. Give God Your Will – Rom. 12:2

- The prayer of every Christian must be “not *my* will, but *Yours* be done...”
- Do you *really* want God’s Will in your life?
- What does it mean to seek God’s will?
 - A. We put His Will above our own – I John 5:14-15
 - Be in the Word and *obeying* the Word
 - Don't say you want God’s Will when you're not obeying what He’s said
 - B. We put His Will above our plans – James 4:13-15

Questions:

1. How would you describe the difference between the Christian’s worldview and the worlds in regards to ownership of their own bodies.
2. What are some practical issues that arise in which this worldview will impact our decisions? Any personal examples you would be willing to share?
3. How can you pray *according to His will*? In what ways can you pray *outside* of His will?

Prayer: “Thank you, Father, for Your great salvation which is by grace through faith alone! My reasonable response to this act of mercy is presenting myself as a living sacrifice to You. I present my body, my mind, and my will to You. Help me to glorify You with my body, to faithfully renew my mind through Your Word, and to submit my will to Your perfect will. Help me to line up my will with Yours at all times. In Jesus’ name, I pray, amen.”