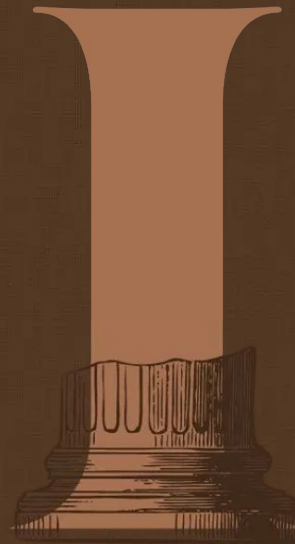


ROMANS TWELVE

XI



VERSE 1-2 | Page 1616

ROMANS 12:2

NIV84 Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NICLT Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this age, but rather, be transformed by the renewal of your mind into the ability to test the genuineness of what God's will is- the good and pleasing and perfect.

NIV84- New international version 1984. NICLT- Nic's literal translation

Are you going to live by:

1. How you want your life to go
2. What you know your life means

Pleasure and success

Vs

Righteousness and justice

“God’s ways are straight,
But his paths seem crooked.

The World’s ways are crooked,
But its paths seem straight.”

(See Romans 7-11)

ROMANS 12:2

NICLT Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your reasoned act of worship.

And do not be conformed to this age, but rather, be transformed by the renewal of your mind into the ability to test the genuineness of what God's will is- the good and pleasing and perfect.”

NICLT- Nic's literal translation



A living sacrifice does
God's will.

(Or: Being a living sacrifice *means* doing God's will.)

1 PETER 1:12-16 NICLT

¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. ¹³Therefore, **prepare your minds for action;** being sober; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴As obedient children, **do not be conform(ing) to the evil desires** you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But **just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;** ¹⁶for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

4 STRUCTURES OF IDENTITY

Is willpower a depleting resource?
Only if you think it is.

1. Identification- “I am a...”
2. Definition: “I don’t...” “I...”
3. Teaching/Profession: “I _____ because...though I’m not perfect.”
4. Ritual: “This is how I make _____ a constant part of me.”



1. Do not be conformed
to this age.

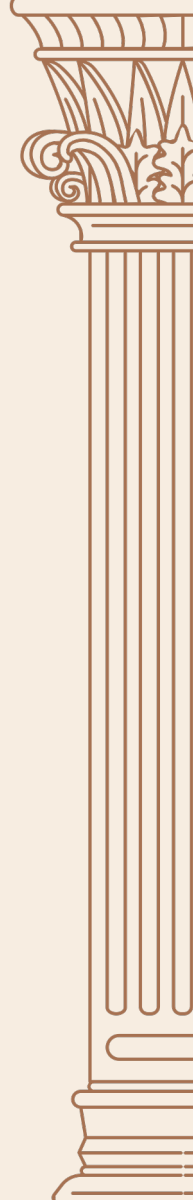
NICLT Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this age...”



1 Corinthians 3:18-20 NIV84

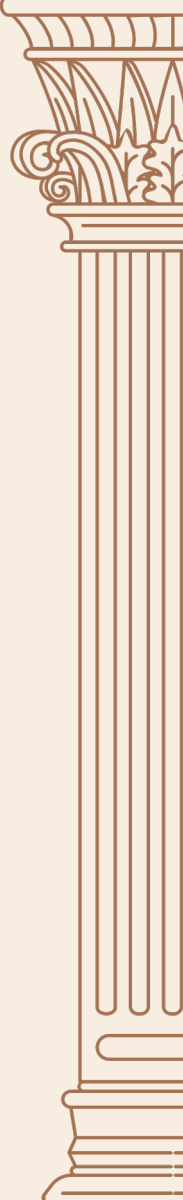
“¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a ‘fool’ so that he may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness’; {Job 5:13} ²⁰and again, ‘The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.’ {Psalm 94:11}”





Ephesians 2:1-3 NIV84

“¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this **world** and of the **ruler of the kingdom** of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our **Flesh** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”





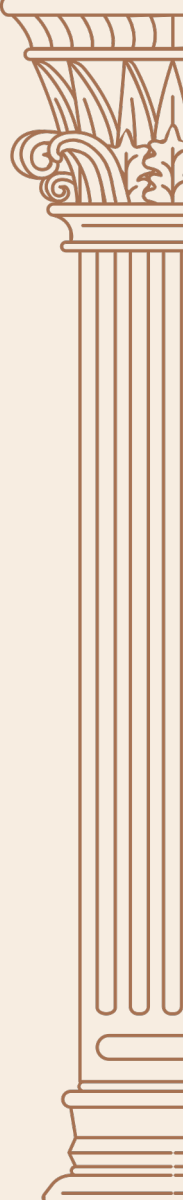
“EMOTIONAL AND CONCEPTUAL COLONIALISM”

It's not just thinking and reason, it's
pervasive enculturation with
incentives and intimidation



2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84

“³For though we live in the world, we do not **wage war** as the world does. ⁴**The weapons we fight with** are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have **divine power to demolish** strongholds. ⁵**We demolish** arguments and every pretension **that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.”



“PRETENSIONS”

1. Instead of Jesus – an opposing idol (Libertine)
2. Jesus and... - A rival addition (X + Therapy)- Jesus is a means to another end...
3. Pseudo-Jesus- a made-up Jesus that agrees with us. (Political party Jesus, legalism/fundamentalism, “Liberal” Jesus)

The image features a solid brown background. On the left and right sides, there are partial views of classical columns. Each column has a fluted shaft and a decorative capital with acanthus leaves. The columns are rendered in a light brown outline style.

“ARGUMENTS”



EXAMPLES:



1. Consumerism, miserliness, need of luxury, picky
2. Political ideology, partisanship, statism, anarchism
3. Ideologies: Marxism, stoicism, expressivism, etc...
4. Ideological perversions: democracy, equality, authority
5. Isolation or collectivism- individual & families
6. Justifying intoxication and gluttony
7. Avoiding confrontation and man pleasing
8. Misuse of science or learning
9. Sexual immorality is love and liberty
10. Devouring treasonous art and honoring evil
11. Legalism or therapeutic Gospel
12. Quarrelsomeness, unforgiveness, strife making
13. Tyranny, abdication, servility, rebellion
14. Every sin, work of the flesh, temptation of devils

Horses have two sides to fall off.



Rejecting conformity to the world is rarely about taking sides. Being a living sacrifice is to commit to the whole will of God.

EXAMPLES:

1. Consumerism, miserliness, need of luxury, picky
2. Political ideology, partisanship, statism, anarchism
3. Ideologies: Marxism, stoicism, expressivism, etc...
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13. Tyranny, abdication, servility, rebellion
14. Every sin, work of the flesh, temptation of devils

You need a plan for facing intimidation
and finding courage.

NIV84 Galatians 1:10

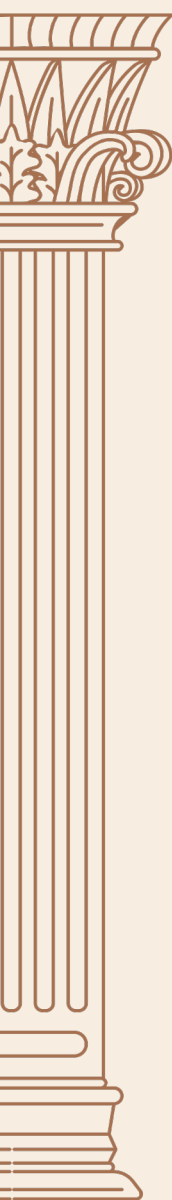
“¹⁰Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? **If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.**”

NIV84 1 Thessalonians 2:4

“⁴On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. **We are not trying to please men but God**, who tests our hearts.”

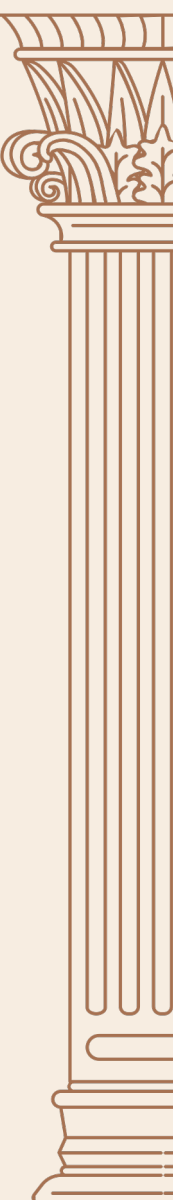


2. Be transformed by the
renewing of your mind



1 Corinthians 2:13-16 NIV84

¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: ¹⁶'For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?' {Isaiah 40:13} But we have the mind of Christ."



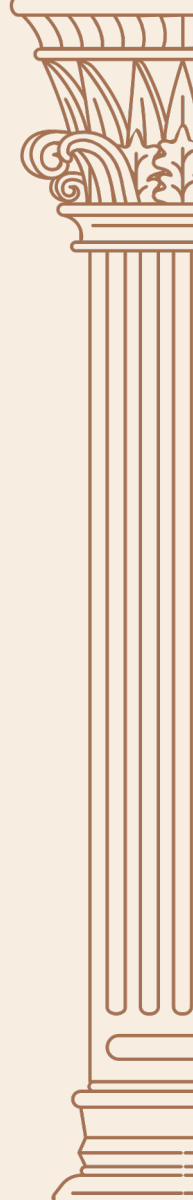


The Main Problem with “worldly wisdom”:

1 Corinthians 2:8-10 NIV84

“⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, **they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

⁹However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’-- {Isaiah 64:4} ¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”



A DOOR TO MORE FLOORS



Imagine you assumed your house only had a ground floor because there was a door to the upstairs, and you had never opened it.

This wouldn't change the first floor. But it would change how it fit into the whole house for you, how you saw it and what you used it for.

It would now just be one "level" of the house.



MEANS OF MIND TRANSFORMATION

The Gospel: See Romans 1-11- a new way to see

Attitude: Romans 12:3

Read the Gospel- and see the real Jesus

Study Philippians, Matthew 5-7, John 13-17

Memorize “By Heart” passages

2 sacraments of salvation- Lord’s Supper and
Baptism

Worship and fellowship

Quiet times & discipleship- bible and prayer

Obedience is the school of righteousness



3. The goal is to authenticate God's will

Romans 12:2 NIV84

“Then you will be able to **test and approve** what
God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”



“AUTHENTICATE” GOD’S WILL

“Be transformed, unto the renewal of your mind, unto you having the ability to examine unto authentication the will of God- it’s goodness and pleasing-ness and it’s completeness.”

NIV “Test and approve” – decent translation.

GOD'S WILL

Everything God
plans in his
providence

Everything God
has said he wants
in the world

Every good act
of stewardship
by extension or
inference

Every command
of God and
direct duty.

GOD'S WILL

Mistaken
View

I focus on...

Everything God
plans in his
providence

Everything God
has said he wants
in the world

Every good act
of stewardship
by extension or
inference

Every command
of God and
direct duty.

GOD'S WILL

I focus on...

Everything God plans in his providence

Everything God has said he wants in the world

Every good act of stewardship by extension or inference

Every command of God and direct duty.



“AUTHENTICATE” GOD’S WILL

“Be transformed, unto the renewal of your mind, unto you having the ability to examine unto authentication the will of God- it’s goodness and pleasing-ness and it’s completeness.”

You’ll know what is God’s will for YOU to do
with your BODY as a living sacrifice.

See: the rest of Romans 12.



4. You'll find God's will
good, pleasing and
perfect too

Romans 12:2 NIV84

“Then you will be able to test and approve what
God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

ROMANS 12:2

NICLT Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, **holy** and **pleasing** to God-- this is your reasoned act of worship.

And do not be conformed to this age, but rather, be transformed by the renewal of your mind into the ability to test the genuineness of what God's will is- the **good** and **pleasing** and **perfect**.”

NICLT- Nic's literal translation

“PLEASING”

Romans 12:1, 2, 14:18, 2 Cor. 5:9, Eph. 5:10, Phil. 4:18, Col. 3:20, Titus 2:9, Heb. 13:21

“pleasing” always means pleasing to someone or agreeable to some standard.

This is the only case in which that who or what isn't stated.

That's not the point.



ADAMANT RECEPTIVITY

Embracingly passive in active reception.

Adamantly resistive to this age.

Intensely receptive to seeing God's will.

“God’s ways are straight,
But his paths seem crooked.

The World’s ways are crooked,
But its paths seem straight.”

ROMANS TWELVE

