

**Worldliness:
Its Causes and Its Cure**

Romans 12:1-2

Introduction

The first eleven chapters of Romans has taught us much about the problems of humankind.

- Everyone has sinned and needs a Savior – Rom. 1:18-3:20**
- God has provided Jesus as the Savior of mankind and offers all forgiveness of sins.**

Introduction

- **To receive God's offer of forgiveness, God requires repentance of sin and faith in the resurrected Christ. Rom. 3:21-5:25**
- **We learned God unites the repentant believer with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Rom. 6:1-8:39**

Introduction

- **We then learned God's plans and purposes for National Israel. Rom. 9-11.**
- **Today, in Romans 12:1-2 we are invited as Christians to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.**

Introduction

- **We are to demonstrate our full surrender by learning how to stop being conformed to this world.**
- **Our theme: “Worldliness: Its Causes and Its Cure.”**

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Romans 12:1-2

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1

God calls each Christian to offer his or her body to God as a living sacrifice.

- This **appeal** is addressed to **Christians**.
- How do we know they are Christians?

Romans 12:1

Romans 1:8: “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.”

Romans 16:19 For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you,”

Romans 12:1

The **motivation** for a Christian to make a full surrender of his body to God is **gratitude**. - “by the mercies of God”

The **actions** required for a full surrender:

1. It involves a **decisive act** of the will.
2. It involves a **commitment** to turn your life completely over to God.

Romans 12:1

We know we have made a full surrender to God when we can honestly say:

- I will obediently give to God whatever He asks.
- I will hold nothing back from God.
- I will trust the Lord with my life and my future.

Romans 12:1

Good News:

When a Christian obediently responds to God's appeal for a full surrender, and completes the action required for a full surrender, God accepts the offering.

- It must be a holy offering “a living sacrifice, holy ..”
- It is only your reasonable service or act of worship!

Romans 12:2

After we offer our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, God calls us to continue the process of stopping all worldliness in our lives.

This process began when we got saved.

Romans 12:2

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

2 “And do not be conformed to this world”

“conformed” - “to allow oneself to be changed and to become like.”

This is a command.

Idea = stop permitting oneself to be influenced by values alien to a Christian identity.

Romans 12:2

We are born into an environment that teaches us how to think and act.

We learn to admire people who are acclaimed by this world.

We are taught what is beautiful and what is ugly.

Romans 12:2

Advertisements are continually trying to influence us.

We are daily being pressed into this world's mold.

The “world” in a negative sense is **any attitude, behavior, goal, motivation or dream that is not in harmony with God's revealed will in the Bible.”**

Romans 12:2

Any attitude or behavior not in harmony with the Bible.

^{NLT} **Galatians 1:4** Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

Romans 12:2

NLT **1 John 2:15** Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

Romans 12:2

Worldliness – any attitude or behavior not in harmony with the Bible

Examples:

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Romans 12:2

- **“be kind to one another”** – unkindness is “worldliness”
- **“tenderhearted”** – to be hard hearted is “worldliness”
- **“forgiving one another”** – to not forgive is “worldliness.”

Romans 12:2

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

- **“love is patient and kind”** – to be impatient or unkind is “worldliness”
- **“love does not envy or boast”** – to be envious of others is “worldliness”

Romans 12:2

1 Corinthians 13:5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

- **“Love does not dishonor others”** – to be rude or to treat others in ways we do not wish to be treated is “worldliness”

Romans 12:2

- **“Love is not self-seeking”** – “to be self-centered or selfish is “worldliness”
- **“Love is not easily angered”** – the world teaches us to be easily angered, especially if we feel that we are not getting the attention, or the respect, or the privileges we believe we deserve to get.

Romans 12:2

- **“Love keeps not record of wrongs”**
 - the world teaches us to keep a mental list of people who have wronged us in some manner. This is worldliness.

To what degree are you conformed to this world?

Romans 12:2

- What attitudes or behaviors, priorities, or goals do you have that are not in harmony with the Word of God?
- God commands us to stop being conformed to this world.
- How do we stop be conformed to this world?

Romans 12:2

- We must first know what the Bible means when it says “Be not conformed to this world.”
- We must second know the attitudes, behaviors, priorities, and goals that the Bible teaches a Christians is to model while living in this world.
- We must then begin the transformation process.

Romans 12:2 – Its Cure

Romans 12:2 “do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

- **“transformed”** – (metamorphosis) – involves a process of mental change.
- It is a command.
- **“by the renewing of your mind”** – how you think determines what you value and how you act.

Romans 12:2 – Its Cure

- **NLT Psalm 119:9** How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.
- **Psalm 119:10** With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!
- **Psalm 119:11** I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

The Role of the Mind

- **Listen to Scriptural music - music that teaches you Biblical values and Biblical goals.**
- **Read the Bible daily. Write down the attitudes and actions that it tells you Christians are to model.**
- **Learn what actions and attitudes are not Biblical.**

The Role of the Mind

- **Pray for God's help so that you can experience "metamorphosis" spiritually.**
- **Check up on you attitudes and goals and dreams. Are they in harmony with God's will for your life?**
- **Learn to pay attention to what you are thinking.**

The Role of the Mind

- **Who is influencing you? Are they influencing you to be a better Christian?**
- **Stay away from negative influences.**
- **Be careful with what you feed you mind.**

Summary

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Summary

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Summary

Worldliness is any:

- **attitude,**
- **behavior,**
- **goal,**
- **motivation or dream**
- **that is not in harmony with
Scripture.**

**Worldliness:
Its Causes and Its Cure**

Romans 12:1-2