**Dead to the World – Rom. 12:1 -2**

**Focal Truth: Believers are dead to the world resisting conformity to the world**

**Observations**

1. **Believers resist conformity to the world by presenting their bodies to God as a holy sacrifice – 12:1**

*I urge you brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living & holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship*

1. Believers present their bodies to God living in the world in holiness not in sinful desires & actions

Rom. 6:13 – do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God

Rom. 6:16 – do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either for sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

1. It pleases God when believers live in holiness in the world

Rom. 12:1 – acceptable to God

1 Pet. 2:9 – you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

1. Believers present themselves to God in the world as an act of spiritual worship that glorifies God

Rom. 12:1 – which is your spiritual service of worship

**This is reasonable worship** – Our lives must match out lips when we worship

Worship begins with presenting ourselves holy in body to God for His purposes in the world

1 Cor. 6:20 – for you have been bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body

Phil. 1:20 – that Christ will always be exalted in my body…

The importance of the believer’s body in the world

* We are saved body, soul, spirit
* We serve God in our bodies
* We worship God in our bodies
* We are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit in our bodies
* We will be conformed to the glorified body of Christ in heaven

1. **Believers resist conformity to the world by renewing their minds – Rom. 12:2**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*

1. Believers must not think like the world

Conform = to shape your thinking & living to another’s pattern

**Conformity to the world – is thinking & living in the ways of the world**

**The world says: believe like us, come with us, sin like us…**

**How does the world think?**

Rom. 1:18 – worldly thinking **suppresses the truth of God**

Rom. 1:21 – worldly thinking is **futile in its speculations**

Rom 1:22 – worldly wisdom is **foolish wisdom**

Rom 1:25 – worldly thinking **exchanges the truth of God for a lie**

Rom 1:26 – worldly thinking **produces a depraved - foolish mind** to ungodly living

1. Believers renew their minds to resist conforming to worldly thinking

*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*

**Transformed = to change from one form to another**

Rom.8:6 – the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace

Eph. 4:23 – that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

c. Renewing the mind transforms the believers thinking

**Renewed = renovation, complete change for the better, a mind alteration**

**Renewed minds are spiritual minds**

**How do we renew the mind?**

* We live by the Spirit as dead to worldly thinking
* We set our mind on Jesus Christ & spiritual truths & realities
* We watch & pray examining our conditions of our thoughts
* We daily read & meditate – think deeply on God’s word
* We pay attention to the Spirit’s leadership & direction

**The believers great challenge is to maintain renewed thinking in the midst of the lies of the world**

**Many believers today are struggling with thoughts held captive to old ways of thinking from the world**

1. **Believers resist conformity to the world by doing the will of God – Rom. 12:2**

*so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect –* **to prove = to approve**

1. The transformed renewed mind of the believer **recognizes the will of God**
2. The transformed renewed mind of the believer **understands that God’s will is good, acceptable and perfect**
3. The believer who does the will of God resists the world

1 John 2:17 – the world is passing away & also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God lives forever

**Things to Remember**

1. Holiness is the best resistance to worldliness
2. Spiritual mindedness comes from the Holy Spirit rather than the unholy spirit of the world
3. A renewed mind is a renovated – altered mind
4. As the believer does the will of God, he resists the world

**Daily Use**

1. Glorify God in your body – renew your mind by the Spirit daily
2. Use your body only for things that are holy & honor God 1 Pet. 1:14
3. Do God’s will while you are in the world