

A dead fish can float downstream, **but** it takes a live fish to swim upstream.

I 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.

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. **Romans 12:1-2**

12:2. Be not conformed (lit., “stop conforming yourselves”): Christians are to resist being poured into the mold of the present thinking, value systems, and conduct of this world. Instead of being molded by the values of this world, the believer should be **transformed**, that is, changed **by the renewing of the mind**. This term is used only here and in 1 Peter 1:14.

1 Peter 1:14, “As obedient children, **not fashioning yourselves** according to the former lusts in your ignorance”

12:2. Be Ye Transformed (Transformed means to change radically in inner character, condition, or nature.)

Followers of Christ should not be conformed, either inwardly or in appearance, to the values, ideals, and behavior of a fallen world. Believers should continually renew their minds through prayer and the study of God’s Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and so be transformed and made like Christ (2 Cor. 3:18). [*Nelson’s new illustrated Bible dictionary*]

If a Christian can by possibility be saved while he conforms to this world, it must be “so as by fire.” Such a bare salvation is almost as much to be dreaded as desired. You cannot become a great Christian while you yield yourself to the thoughts and ways of the world. O Christian, too little separated from sinners, you don’t know what you lose by your conformity to the world. It makes you creep where you ought to run. If you are a Christian, be a Christian, **and be a marked and distinct one.** (Spurgeon, Charles H., *Morning and Evening*, - edited)

12:2. By the renewing of your mind - We should not only be separated from the world; we should **be transformed by the renewing of our mind**, which

means that we should think the way God thinks, as revealed in the Bible. Then we can experience the direct guidance of God in our lives. And we will find that, instead of being distasteful and hard, His **will is good and acceptable and perfect.** [*Believer’s Bible commentary: Old and New Testaments*]

Three keys for knowing God’s will.
first is a yielded body, *second* a separated life, *third* a transformed mind.

[*Believer’s Bible commentary*]



A silver-smith doesn't need a fancy

formula for calculating purity. He knows the silver is free of dross when he can see his reflection in the liquefied metal. **When are we pure?** When Christ looks at us and sees his reflection. (Romans 8:29.)