

# A Reasonable Challenge

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 spiritual act of worship. 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.”* Romans 12.1-2

There is a tension within our lives. On the one hand we see the need for and have a desire to change. On the other hand, there is a real hesitancy to change. We are uncomfortable with the uncertainties that change may bring.

Why is it that we often resist change so ardently? The truth is that some change is not only inevitable, it is sorely needed. The Bible speaks to this need within us. It also gives us the prescription which will get the job done.

## The Challenge to Change

We are **challenged by the mercy of God**

*“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 spiritual act of worship.”*

Romans 12.1

The Great Paradox – **Dying, we live**

*“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 spiritual act of worship.”*

Romans 12.1

It is **a change that simply makes sense**

*“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 spiritual act of worship.**”*

Romans 12.1

## The Substance of the Change

The nature of the problem – **the pattern of this world**

*“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.”*

Romans 12.2

The process of change – **renewing of the mind**

*“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.”*

Romans 12.2

The result – **God’s good, pleasing and perfect will**

*“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.”*

Romans 12.2