

**First Baptist Church, Plymouth NC.**  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study**  
**September 22, 2021**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform 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

God, I want to know you and I want to know your will in this matter. This is what many of us will say to ourselves as we face the various issues of our lives. These verses reveal the essentials for that to happen.

1. Do not conform to the pattern of this world- “*Conformed* refers to assuming an outward expression that does not reflect what is really inside, a kind of masquerade or act. The words form implies that Paul’s readers were already allowing this to happen and must stop. *World* is better translated “age” which refers to the system of beliefs values- or the spirit of the age – at any time current in the world. This sum of contemporary thinking and values forms the moral atmosphere of our world and is always dominated by Satan.”- The MacArthur Study Bible

*“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Cor. 4:4*

What are some thoughts and values that have come to dominate our nations moral atmosphere that just a generation ago were unthinkable?

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Biblically how should we respond to each of these thoughts and values?

2. Test and approve the will of God. Those who are transforming their minds through God’s word will walk in the will of God- as they do, as they test it in their own lives, i.e. “I am going to live the way the Bible instructs me to live”- they will see that God’s will is best and approve of it- They will see that it is a good, pleasant life in the long run. But the taste for the life of faith in God must be developed!

Over time, as our minds are washed in the word of God and transformed- we then find that God is reliable, faithful, and good. Psalm 34:8-18. To trust God, we must we be thoroughly convinced of concerning Him?

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and his unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By his nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes Holy pleasure in the happiness of all people...Since God is immutable, He never varies in his intensity of his loving-kindness. He has never been kinder than he is now, nor will he ever be less kind.”  
His kindness is seen not just in his blessings but in His call as well to believe and follow. This is a key assumption when facing life’s difficulties!

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Let us review the little exercise I assigned last week.

Now meditate and put that issue in the context of Romans 11:33-36

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!  
<sup>34</sup> "Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?"<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>35</sup> "Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay them?  
<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and for him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Reading these verses, how do the truths they reveal challenge or change your thinking about the issue?

What about how you pray about that issue?

What about your emotions about the issue?

What about our attitude toward God when things aren't going the way you expect?

What should be our goal be in all things?ui