

Sunday, January 22, 2023

## Fact-Check

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Romans 12:1-3, pg. 947 in the Pew Bibles

Introduce self and series

-Reading of the word & prayer

While President Abraham Lincoln was in office it's said a third of US currency in use was counterfeit. He established a commission to make recommendations to remedy the problem. The Secret Service was later established on July 5, 1865, in [Washington, D.C.](#), to suppress counterfeit currency. (*7yrs later our church was planted*)

How did they train to recognize counterfeits? They studied the original.

I have heard this a lot, maybe you have too.

*"Federal agents don't learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. Then when they see the bogus money they recognize it." John MacArthur, [Reckless Faith](#)*

BUT, I can't tell you how many things I've heard in sermons that come across as factual, only to find out it started as an illustration that was told by others and became a fact. So how can you know?

The title of this mornings message is ["FACT-CHECK"](#). So, I did a fact-check on John MacArthur's claims and it turns out, he was right. I didn't have to call the secret service to find out, though if it mattered more, I might have. Why? Because Pastor named Tim Challies did it for me. He made an appointment with a major bank, got through all the security measures and found out once and for all if John MacArthur was right... and he was.<sup>1</sup> In fact, by the time he was done, he was able to identify a stack of true currency from false ones.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.challies.com/articles/counterfeit-detection-part-1/>

Our text this morning gives us an exhortation to do the same. The best way to know what's false, is to test & examine what's true, so when a counterfeit comes along to rob you of the resurrected life you have been granted, you are able to recognize it!

## Title Slide

**Read Vs. 1**, "therefore"—> Context—> Gospel

-Because of the Gospel "present your bodies," in other words, all that you are AND all that you do, as actions or service of worship. (*Not just singing*)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 12:1 MSG

All of you, even the small things, as an act of worship. It's the best!

How? How do you live this life?

-Vs. 1, Spiritual worship.

Spiritual: pertaining to being genuine, in the sense of being true to the real and essential nature of something—rational, genuine, true. Greek-English Lexicon <sup>2</sup>

NJKV-Responsible or rational and NIV-True and proper worship, this ties into the first and greatest commandment.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30

Loving God with your mind!

*Isn't it strange that our Lord says that we are called to love God with our minds? We don't usually speak of love in terms of an intellectual activity. In fact, most of our understanding of love in our secular culture is described in passive*

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<sup>2</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

categories. We speak not of jumping in love but falling in love, like it was an accident.<sup>3</sup> RC Sproul

How? How do you live this life?

**Read Vs. 2-Renew** your mind!

\*Conform has a similar meaning to "worldview" and "narrative," "to form or mold one's behavior in accordance with a particular pattern or set of standards."

A worldview (or "Narrative") is a collection of attitudes, values, stories and expectations about the world around us, which inform our every thought and action.

Do not take on a worldly world view! But instead... Renew your mind!

-Renew is where we get the world 'to morph" Caterpillar to butterfly

-Think like a butterfly... you have wings. "Do I?"

## Title Slide

### Read Vs. 2

**By Testing you may discern:** to try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing, often through actual use.

-Scientific method

### Read Vs. 3

**This ties into last week. The 2 competing Narratives**

Competing Narratives

1. Lower God
2. Exalting man

**True Story**

1. Exalts God
2. Man Needs God

## Title Slide

**Vs. 3b, Think with Sober judgement**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/loving-god-our-minds>

Sober Judgement: to have understanding about practical matters and thus be able to act sensibly.

### **In other words...**

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Romans 12:1 MSG

Application

### **AND FACT CHECK**

1. Study the word of God as our standard for truth
2. When a counterfeit comes along... You'll catch it!

Teach on Laws of Logic, Law of non-contradiction. A Cannot be A and Non-A in the same time and same place. Basically distinctions in thought. You're doing it now. It's a transcendental law, not physical, & universal. Basically all thought only makes sense in a Christian worldview. Morality, etc...

-Arguing air doesn't exist all the while your breathing while doing it...

### **ALWAYS READY SLIDE**

3. How do we respond when a counterfeit comes along?

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect 1 Peter 3:15

Communion

## Pre-Study Notes

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### Romans 12:1-3, pg. 947 in the Pew Bibles

Main Point-Spiritual maturity starts with your mind!

Key Words-Think 3x

Key Verse-Vs. 2

FCF-Pride

 General  God  key words  command  truth  sin

I appeal to you **therefore**, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** Do not be **conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of **God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to **think with sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that **God** has assigned. Romans 12:1-3

#### God

-Merciful, receives our sacrifices, and He has assigned us with a measure (which implies variety) faith

#### Commands

- Present your body as a living sacrifice
- Do not be conformed to the world
- but transformed by the renewal of the mind
- Not to think of himself more highly than you ought
- But to think with sober judgement

#### Greek

Spiritual: pertaining to being genuine, in the sense of being true to the real and essential nature of something— 'rational, genuine, true.'<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

\*Conform: to form or mold one's behavior in accordance with a particular pattern or set of standards.<sup>5</sup>

Transform: to change the essential form or nature of something

Renewal: to cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming superior

By Testing you may discern: to try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing, often through actual use

Mind: a particular manner or way of thinking—'way of thinking, disposition, manner of thought, attitude.'

Discern to try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing, often through actual use—'to test, to examine, to try to determine the genuineness of, testing.'

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [\*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains\*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 331). New York: United Bible Societies.

Think: to hold a view or have an opinion with regard to something

Sober Judgement: to have understanding about practical matters and thus be able to act sensibly—'to have sound judgment, to be sensible, to use good sense, sound judgment

Thoughts

\*Conform has a similar meaning to "worldview" and "narrative"

"to form or mold one's behavior in accordance with a particular pattern or set of standards."

[A worldview is a collection of attitudes, values, stories and expectations about the world around us, which inform our every thought and action.](#)

[Narrative; a representation of a particular situation or process in such a way as to reflect or conform to an overarching set of aims or values](#)

Translation Variations

Vs. 1

Spiritual Worship ESV / True and proper worship NIV / Reasonable (rational) worship NJKV / Spiritual service of worship NASB / This is truly the way to worship him NLT /

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<sup>5</sup> IBID

Vs. 2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ESV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, NIV

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. NLT

Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. MSG

Vs. 3

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. NLT

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him. MSG