

Living God's Will Romans 12:1-2

The Big Question:

How do I know the will of God? How do I know what is good, acceptable and perfect in His sight for my life?
“...so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2b

God's will is found in His gracious mercies. Romans 12:1a

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God...”

- **Therefore = “by the mercies of God” describes everything that was said in Romans 1-11.**
- **This is a reactive passage. Therefore, we do this. We love because He first loved us.**

God's will is found through surrendering your life to Him. Romans 12:1b

“...to present your bodies a loving and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

- **We are to be a living and holy sacrifice. The Roman people knew sacrifice and there's a death involved.**
- **This is your spiritual service of worship.**
 - Paul is redefining the act of worship for Judaism. The temple was the sacred space and the killing of animals was the sacrifice. Now we are the sacred space and our lives are the sacrifice. So everything is sacred.

God's will is found by growing into a Christ-like person. Romans 12:2a

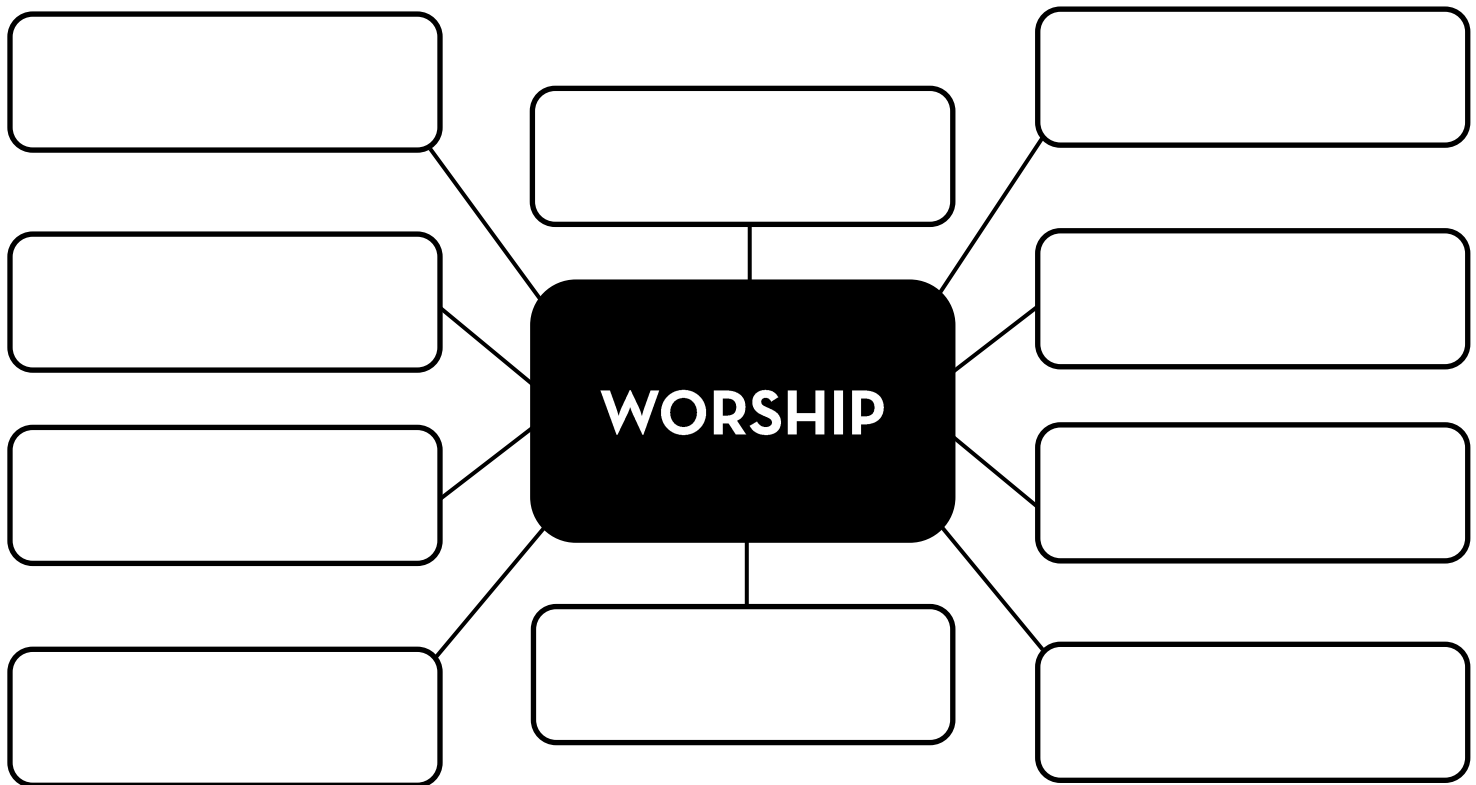
“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

- **How do we grow?** We have active roles and passive, receiving roles in our growth.
Who will we receive from?
- **Do not be conformed to this world**
- **Be transformed by God**
 - By the renewing of your mind
 - Mind = *nous* = practical reasoning or moral consciousness
 - Ephesians 2:3, 4:20-23 | Philipians 3:18-19, 4:8 | Colossians 3:1-17
- **It's less about knowing God's will, but being God's person**

Response:

Consider your life as an act of worship. If worship of God is at the center of your life, how can every part of your life be a living and holy sacrifice of worship to Him?

Spend some time now filling in the cloud chart with ways that your life can be lived in this way.



LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What have you thought about “discovering God’s will” in the past? How has this changed?
2. What are some ways to practice the “renewing of your mind?”
3. How can we take steps to not be conformed to the world while not becoming hermits who can’t engage the world effectively?

Next Steps:

1. Get involved with one of Calvary’s Grow ministries to help you grow in your faith. This could be receiving prayer, counseling, spiritual direction, discipleship, finding a LifeGroup, or attending the Core LifeLab 201: How to Grow. Find out more at calvarylife.org/grow
2. Read all of Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3 and identify all the ways that these passages help you learn how to have your mind renewed by God and what the actions of a renewed mind include.
3. Spend time evaluating the different areas of your life – work, home, family, school, relationships, hobbies, entertainment, devotional, thoughts, volunteer service, money, etc. How do these reflect living a life that is a “living and holy sacrifice?” Talk with a mentor or friend about what a life of worship really looks like.