

Discipleship Training Course

This course contains 23 chapters and is released freely to the public domain for the purpose of discipling new believers and strengthening those older in the faith.

All Bible quotations are given in italics with their book, chapter and verse(s), followed by an abbreviation for their translation as follows:

AMP	The Amplified Bible © 2015 The Lockman Foundation
AMPC	The Amplified Bible (Classic Edition) © 1987 The Zondervan Corporation and the Lockman Foundation
ESVUK	English Standard Version Anglicised © 2001 Crossway Bibles
HCSB	The Holman Christian Standard Bible © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 Holman Bible Publishers
MSG	The Message © 1993, 2002, 2018 Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress.
NASB1995	The New American Standard Bible © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 The Lockman Foundation
NHEB	New Heart English Bible, Edited by Wayne A. Mitchell 2008-2026, Public Domain
NIVUK	The New International Version® Anglicized © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica, Inc.®
NKJV	New King James Version® © 1982 Thomas Nelson
NLT	New Living Translation © 1996, 2004, 2015 Tyndale House Foundation
WEBPB	The World English Bible® Protestant British Edition, Public Domain

The use of Bible quotes within this course conforms to the copyright exceptions of all these publishers.

The following systematic adjustments have also been made to Bible quotes:

- The Old Testament tetragrammaton name of God (derived from the four Hebrew letters translated into English as YHWH) has been rendered LORD unless translated Jehovah or Yahweh
- Pronouns referring to the Trinity and some specific terms relating to the Trinity (such as Name and Word) have been capitalized
- Speech marks around entire quotes and at the beginning of new paragraphs have been omitted
- Anglicised spellings have been used
- All quotes begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop
- Some weights, measures and times have been replaced with easier to understand terms given in the footnotes using square brackets
- All verse numbers, footnote numbers and symbols have been removed
- Poetry has been indented and only new sentences start with a capital letter

Published in electronic format by Pastor Peter Samuels, Morecambe, UK

Version 2.5, July 2026

ISBN 978-0-9956916-1-2

Chapter 12. A renewed mind

Contents

1. Key Scriptures
2. Putting off our old nature and putting on our new nature
3. Practical interpretation

1. Key Scriptures

*Don't be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

Romans 12:2 (WEBPB)

*Don't copy the behaviour 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.*

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

*So this I say and solemnly testify in [the name of] the Lord [as in His presence], that **you must no longer live as the heathen (the Gentiles) do in their perverseness [in the folly, vanity, and emptiness of their souls and the futility] of their minds.***

Their moral understanding is darkened and their reasoning is beclouded.** [They are] alienated (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] **because of the ignorance (the want of knowledge and perception, the wilful blindness) that is deep-seated in them, due to their hardness of heart [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature].

In their spiritual apathy they have become callous and past feeling and reckless and have abandoned themselves [a prey] to unbridled sensuality, eager and greedy to indulge in every form of impurity [that their depraved desires may suggest and demand].

But you did not so learn Christ!

*Assuming that you have really heard Him and been taught by Him, **as [all] Truth is in Jesus [embodied and personified in Him],***

***Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self]** which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion;*

And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],

And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:17-24 (AMPC)

And so I insist – and God backs me up on this – that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion.

But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to Him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything – and I do mean everything – connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And

*then take on an entirely new way of life – a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as **God accurately reproduces His character in you.***

Ephesians 4:17-24 (MSG)

2. Putting off our old nature and putting on our new nature

Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Through salvation we have peace with God (Romans 5:1-2) and receive the gift of eternal life (John 3:16-17). Once we are saved and born again we should be baptised in water and then pray to receive the gift of (baptism in) the Holy Spirit. We should start to read the Bible and pray regularly and seek to join a Bible-believing church. However, none of these stages, however good they are in themselves, ensures that our minds are renewed. A renewed mind is not given to us immediately upon salvation nor upon water baptism nor baptism in the Holy Spirit nor when we start attending church, reading the Bible or praying, etc.

God has called us to be holy:

*So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit – steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. [Live] as obedient children [of God]; do not be conformed to the evil desires which governed you in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation]. But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct [be set apart from the world by your godly character and moral courage]; because it is written, “**You shall be holy (set apart), for I am holy.**”*

1 Peter 1:13-16 (AMP)

Eternal life is the salvation of our spirits. Once we are saved, if we were to die, we would immediately be taken to heaven (John 3:16). The salvation of our physical bodies is healing and walking in divine health and wholeness. The salvation of our **souls** (our **minds**, **emotions** and **wills**) is progressive with the hope of their full salvation upon our death or translation into God's presence at His Second Coming:

*Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that **when He is revealed, we will be like Him; for we will see Him just as He is.***

1 John 3:2 (WEBPB)

The **progressive salvation of our minds** is known as the **renewal of our minds**. To have a renewed mind is to think the way God thinks, leading us to act the way God acts. God's ways of thinking are completely different to man's:

***“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways,”** says the LORD.*

*“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways,
and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Isaiah 55:8-9 (WEBPB)

Our lifestyle cannot change until our thinking changes:

*So this I say and solemnly testify in [the name of] the Lord [as in His presence], that **you must no longer live as the heathen (the Gentiles) do in their perverseness [in the folly, vanity, and emptiness of their souls and the futility] of their minds.***

Ephesians 4:17 (AMPC)

The J.B. Phillips translation of Romans 12:2 describes the influence of worldly thinking as **being squeezed into the world's mould**. There is no neutral mind-set. A contemporary

example is the progressive erosion of Christian values from within modern liberal society with the ensuing reaping of consequences:

***For they sow the wind,
and they will reap the whirlwind.***

Hosea 8:7a (WEBPB)

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

The key idea to having a renewed mind is to **put off the old nature and to put on the new nature** (Ephesians 4:22-24 – see key passage above, where the renewal of the mind is interjected between these two stages). This is something we need to do deliberately by faith. In his letter to the Romans, Paul describes this as counting ourselves dead to sin but alive to God:

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was.

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with Him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:1-11 (NLT)

Rather than being squeezed into the world's mould, we need to allow God to **create a mould** within us by obeying Him by faith (Romans 12:2, JBP), trusting Him for the grace to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions:

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14 (NIVUK)

Our obedience may initially appear and feel contrary to our (old) nature but we need to obey God out of love for Him (John 14:15). Our obedience is the putting off of our old nature and the putting on of our new nature. It is like allowing God to **create an outer mould or cast** for a metal statue. God cannot pour His goodness into us unless we have made this conscious choice to reject our old way of life and obey His commands. Once we start to walk in obedience the inner statue of our new nature becomes solid and our new nature becomes fully grounded in our behaviour and experience. We start by **being willing to obey** which allows God to help us to make good our choice:

***If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the good of the land.***

Isaiah 1:19 (WEBPB)

3. Practical interpretation

Putting off our old nature and putting on our new nature can mean many different things according to how we were living before we were saved. The following passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians mentions things like stopping lying, not becoming angry in an ungodly way, not stealing, not speaking in an unclean way, coming out of bitterness and fighting other people and being malicious, walking in love and forgiveness, walking in sexual purity, not getting drunk but instead worshipping God:

*Therefore, **rejecting all falsity** and being done now with it, let everyone express the truth with his neighbour, for we are all parts of one body and members one of another.*

***When angry, do not sin;** do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down.*

Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

***Let the thief steal no more,** but rather let him be industrious, making an honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.*

***Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth,** but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favour) to those who hear it.*

*And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God** [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin).*

***Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarrelling (brawling, clamour, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice** (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind).*

And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

*Therefore **be imitators of God** [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father].*

And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

*But **immorality (sexual vice) and all impurity [of lustful, rich, wasteful living] or greediness must not even be named among you,** as is fitting and proper among saints (God's consecrated people).*

***Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting,** which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness [to God].*

For be sure of this: that no person practicing sexual vice or impurity in thought or in life, or one who is covetous [who has lustful desire for the property of others and is greedy for gain] – for he [in effect] is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one delude and deceive you with empty excuses and groundless arguments [for these sins], for through these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of rebellion and disobedience.

So do not associate or be sharers with them.

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light].

For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life.

And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him].

Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them.

For it is a shame even to speak of or mention the things that [such people] practice in secret.

But when anything is exposed and reproved by the light, it is made visible and clear; and where everything is visible and clear there is light.

Therefore He says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light.

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people),

Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.

Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord,

At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Ephesians 4:25 - 5:20 (AMPC)

Paul also gave a similar list of exhortations to the Colossians:

If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth.

For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendour of His] glory.

So kill (deaden, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

It is on account of these [very sins] that the [holy] anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (those who are obstinately opposed to the divine will),

Among whom you also once walked, when you were living in and addicted to [such practices].

But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!

Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices,

And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remoulded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it.

[In this new creation all distinctions vanish.] There is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, [nor difference between nations whether alien] barbarians or Scythians [who are the most savage of all], nor slave or free man; but Christ is all and in all [everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person].

Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behaviour marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper].

Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive].

And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony].

And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always].

Let the word [spoken by] Christ (the Messiah) have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom [in spiritual things, and as you sing] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to God with [His] grace in your hearts.

And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:1-17 (AMPC)

These long lists of instructions for godly behaviour are impossible for us to carry out in our own strength. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can put off of our old natures, reckon ourselves as being dead to sin and alive to God and the put on of our new nature, giving us the grace to obey and live at this higher standard:

But I say, walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts].

Galatians 5:16 (AMP)

When we have this understanding, God's commands are no longer burdensome or make us feel inadequate or condemned, but they enable us to overcome the world:

Chapter 12. A renewed mind

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. **And His commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.** And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. **Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?***

1 John 5:1-5 (ESVUK)