

A blue ballpoint pen with a silver-colored tip and barrel accents is positioned diagonally across the upper left portion of the image. The background is a light blue document featuring a bar chart with several vertical bars of varying heights. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, with a monochromatic blue color scheme.

VALUES 101

ROMANS 12:1-2

1. Surrender

Romans 12:1-2 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. 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 *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.*

- “URGE” = not automatic
- Offer (“surrender”) indicates a battle (of wills)
- God's mercy moves me
- An act of worship

2. Resist Conformity

Romans 12:2a *Do not conform to the pattern of this world...*

- All societies have “norms” or patterns of behaviour.
- Some patterns develop over time / environment and become “default” position.
- Do they reflect lifestyle of follower of Jesus?
- Resist conformity – shaped by values, social pressures, culture .

3. Be Transformed.

Romans 12:2b ..., *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

- Transformed is opposite of conformity
- Transformation is active and Spirit-driven

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

- Renewal starts in spirit; moves to mind / emotions / actions
- Must be Spirit-led
- Changes to OLD patterns of thinking / behaviour

QUOTE: “Romans 12:2 means interpreting life through the lens of God’s Word and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, rather than through the lens of your experience, woundedness, preferences or opinions of others.”

4. Fine Tuning

Romans 12:2c ... *Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- God's will is based on His character
- God invites us to TEST and PROVE His will for us.