

- Name something that you had to learn how to do
- Have you ever had difficulty learning how to do something?
- Have you ever had to unlearn and then relearn how to do something?

DYING TO PLEASE GOD

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2

1. Present Your Bodies
2. Renew Your Minds



1. Present Your Bodies

• Present

- Used of OT sacrifices (e.g. - Lev. 16:7 LXX)
- *Consecrate, dedicate, devote, surrender*
 - Luke 2:22; Rom. 6:13, 19
- *Once-for-all* decision
 - Once offered, the sacrifice was not retrieved but consumed on the altar

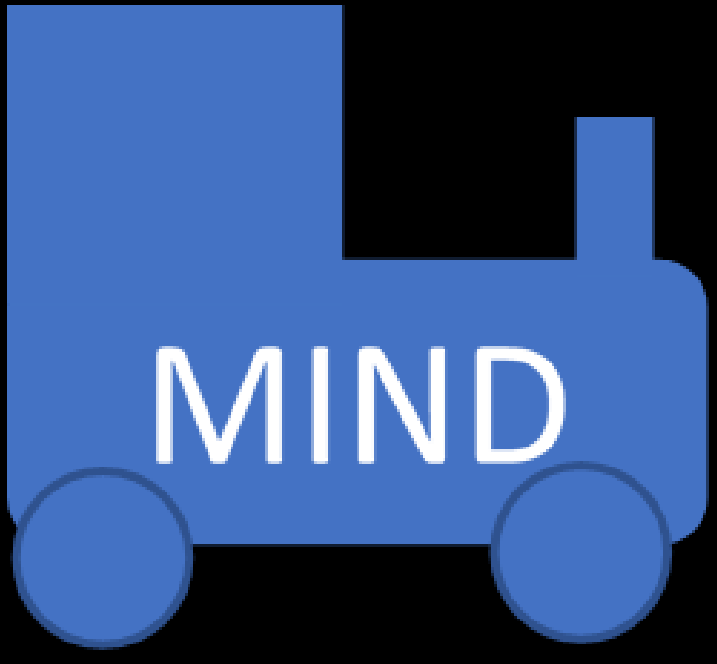
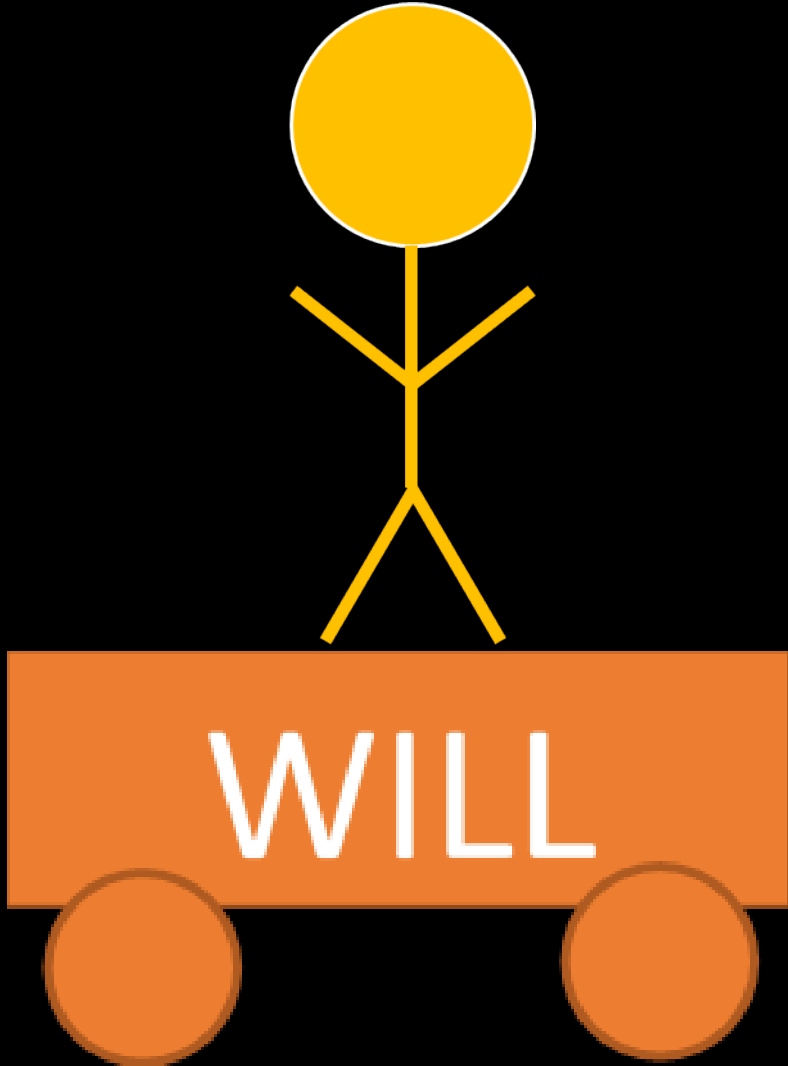
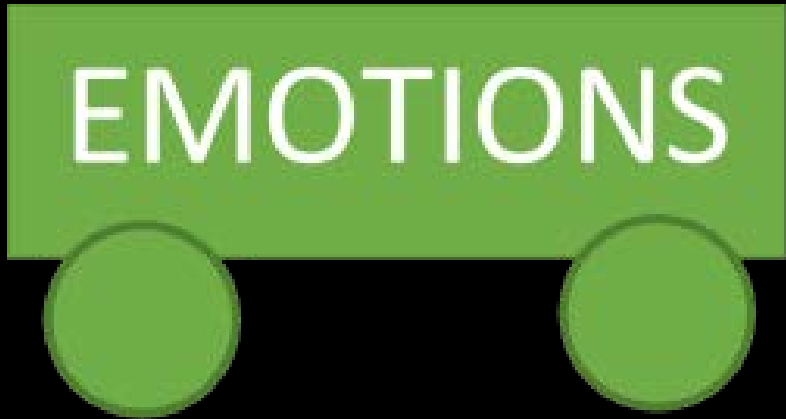
1. Present Your Bodies

- Your bodies

- The *tool* or *organ* of the will

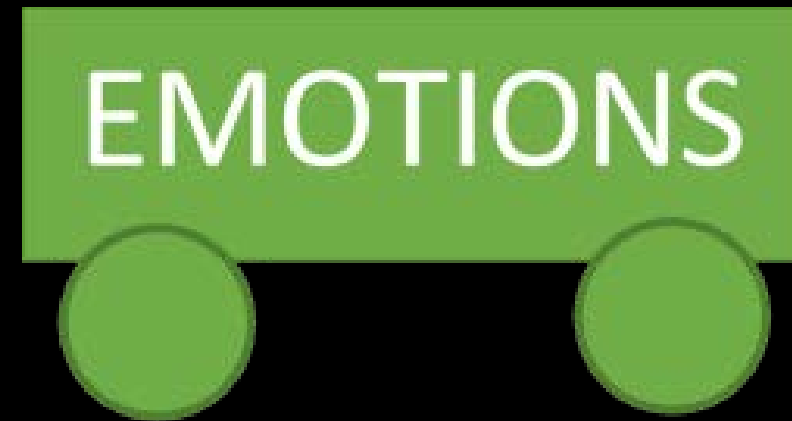
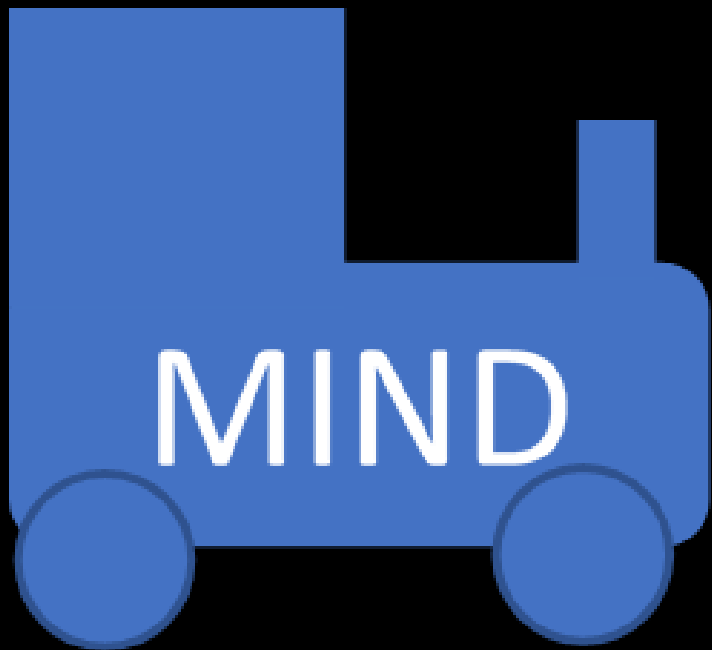
- The body does what the will decides

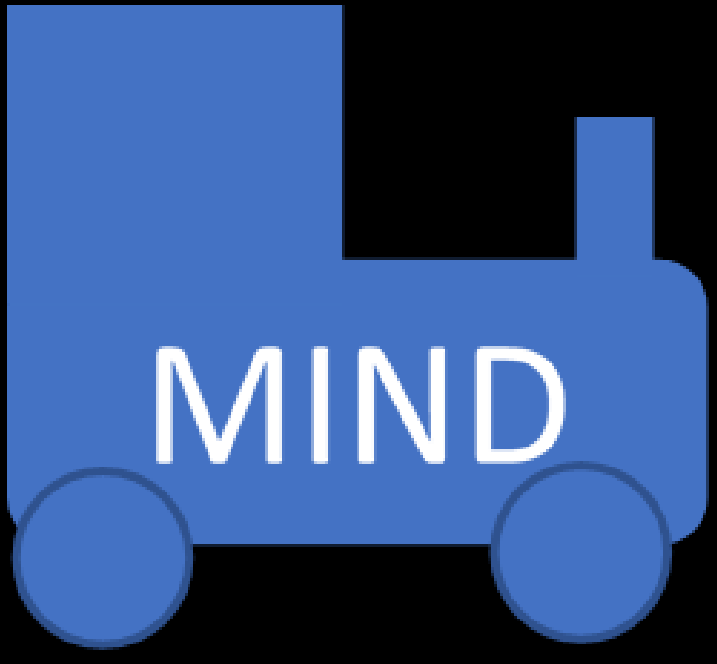
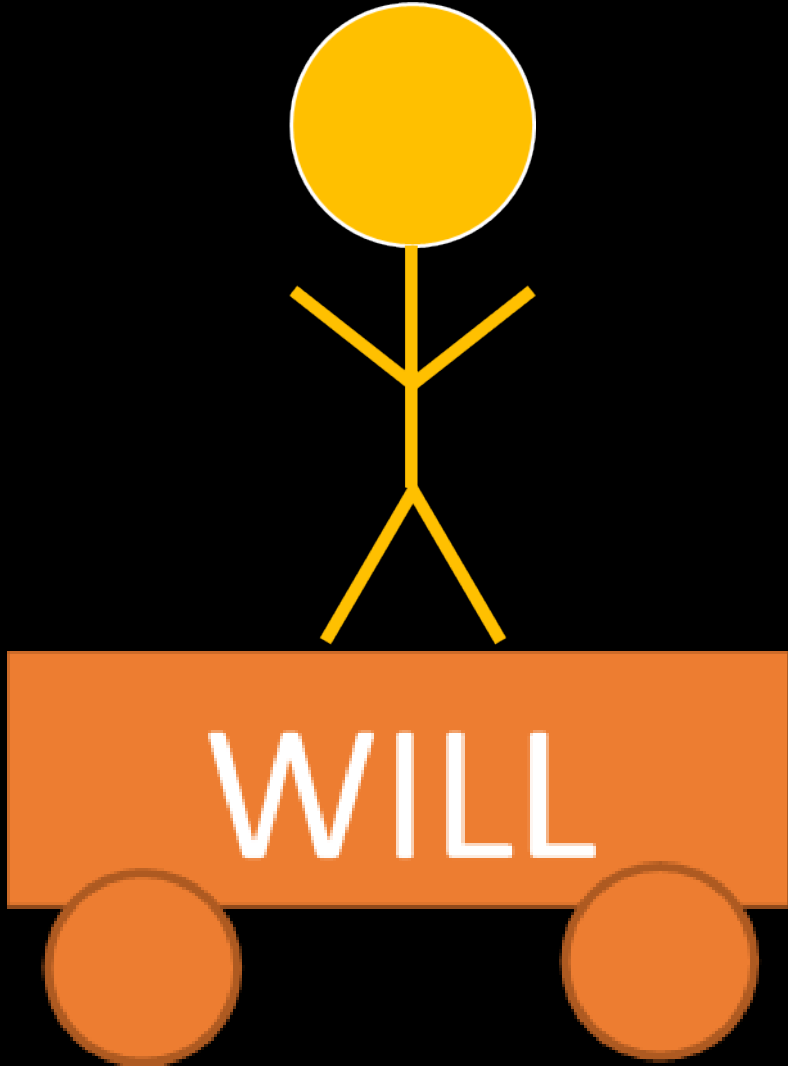
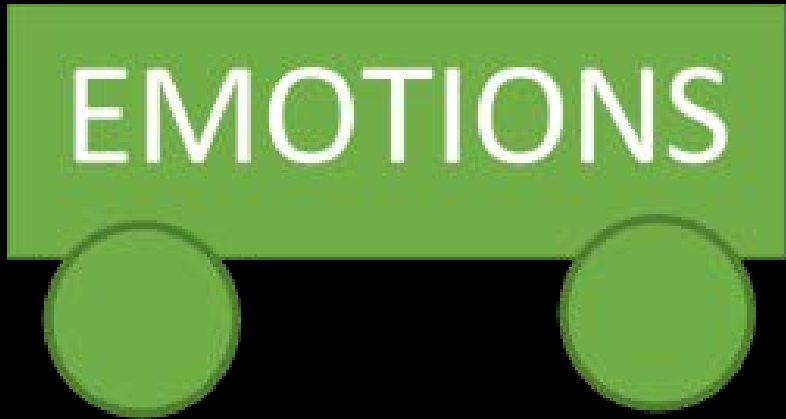




“If it feels good, do it”

“I don't *feel* like it”







1. Present Your Bodies

- **Your bodies**

- The *tool* or *organ* of the will
 - The body does what the will decides
- The *whole self* (which belongs to God)
 - 1 Cor. 6:12-20
 - “...the God to whom I belong and whom I serve...” (Acts 27:23)

1. Present Your Bodies

- **A sacrifice**

- Two reasons: *atonement* and *thankfulness*
 - Lev. 1, 4, 5 and 2, 3
 - Jesus offered the final and complete atonement offering for all (Heb. 10:11-14)
- We are to offer ourselves freely, as a thank offering





1. Present Your Bodies

- **A sacrifice**

- This is NOT to earn salvation

- Therefore, by the mercies of God...

- *In light of God's saving mercies (Chaps. 1-11)*

- Not to *obtain* mercy (as in atonement) but *in response to* mercy (thankfulness)

1. Present Your Bodies

- **A sacrifice**

- Living – Not slain or consumed
- Holy – *set apart*; practical (1 Pet. 1:14-15)
- Acceptable to God – *Pleasing* to God (John 8:29; 2 Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:9-12; Heb. 11:5-6; 1 John 3:21-22)





1. Present Your Bodies

- Which is your spiritual service
 - Spiritual – *reasonable*?
 - Rational; conscious; “intelligent and deliberate”
 - As opposed to empty mechanical acts
 - Ps. 51:16-17; cf. Gen. 4:4-5
 - Not involuntary like an animal



1. Present Your Bodies

- Which is your spiritual service
 - *Service of worship*
 - Not ceremonial acts, like OT worship (see 9:4)
 - A devoted life: everything that you do
 - “...the God to whom I belong and whom I serve...” (Acts 27:23)
 - Rom. 1:9; Heb. 12:28

2. Renew Your Mind

- **Do not be conformed to this world**
 - *Conformed: molded, fashioned*
 - Like a sand castle
 - *Middle verb tense: done to you*
 - External pressure to shape you to the world's values, desires, priorities, drives, goals, ideas...





1 CWT
BROOKS
ENGLAND

2. Renew Your Mind

- **But be transformed**
 - *Metamorphosis*: deep inner change
 - Like a glass
 - *Transfigured* (Matt. 17:2)
 - *Passive* verb tense: done to you
 - HOW?



2. Renew Your Mind

- **By the renewing of your mind**
 - *Renewing: renovation*
 - Making it different from what is was in the past
 - Removing what is bad and replacing it with what is good



2. Renew Your Mind

- **By the renewing of your mind**
 - *Mind: understanding or thinking, as it relates to moral & ethical activity*
 - **Replacing** your values, desires, priorities, drives, goals, ideas...
 - This is why knowledge and sound doctrine are so important!
 - Col. 1:9-12; 1 Tim. 6:3-5



2. Renew Your Mind

- **By the renewing of your mind**

- Eph. 4:22-24

- How does he describe the *old self*?

- How does he describe the *new self*?

- Col. 3:9-10

- How does he describe the *old self*?

- How does he describe the *new self*?



2. Renew Your Mind

- So that you may prove what the will of God is
 - *Prove – discern; recognize*
 - Phil. 1:10 (cf. Luke 12:56)
 - Proving is based on renewing
 - So that you can live it out (*service*)
 - Like picking a ripe pineapple



2. Renew Your Mind

- So that you may prove what the will of God is
 - *The will of God* – holiness; sanctification; Christ-likeness
 - 1 Thess. 4:3; 1 Pet. 4:2; 1 John 2:15-17



2. Renew Your Mind

- **That which is...**
 - *Good – virtuous; upright*
 - Soil (Luke 8:15); command (Rom. 7:12)
 - *Acceptable – pleasing to God*
 - *Perfect – complete, no room for improvement*



Summary

Therefore, considering all that God has done for you in order to reconcile you—a rebellious sinner—to Himself, I exhort you and plead with you to surrender your whole self to God, just as an animal is sacrificially surrendered to God.

Summary

However, you are to be a *living sacrifice*: one that makes a conscious choice and commitment to a lifestyle of worship to God by keeping itself far away from sin and seeking to please Him in everything that it does, not merely performing empty religious actions.

Summary

The problem is the world system will try very hard to keep that from happening. Therefore you must reject the influences that the world will use to try to shape you in *its* image, and instead undergo a deep inner renovation of your thinking process that God will use to make you completely new in *His* image.

Summary

This happens when you start believing and acting on what is true. Only then, through the working of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18), can you truly discern, understand, and accept God's will for you (Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-12). And only then will you see that God's plan is really the most satisfying and best way. Only then will you find *real life*.

So What?

- We must invest time and effort to renovate our minds, replacing the old way of thinking with the new
 - As we do that, God brings about spiritual transformation in us, i.e. – *Christ-likeness*



So What?

- We must engage in regular, systematic study of the Bible
 - 1 Pet. 2:1-3
 - 2 Tim. 3:10-15 (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - Please let me know if you need help!
- We must *do* what we *learn*
 - James 1:19-25

