



Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

We have taught on renewing the mind, but today we are going to approach the topic from a different perspective. We are going to use the parable of a frame today.

We're going to take a fresh look at this important mandate of renewing the mind. We know that the new birth experience or becoming a believer in Christ is a great miracle that happens in the heart. The challenge has always been to reflect in our daily life the same Christ that abides in our hearts.

Galatians 2:20

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When we speak of framing, we all have a point of view:

- Might think about an actual picture frame
- If you're into photography you know the importance of the frame to compose your image
- You might think of framing as a position or point of view
- You might think of "frame of mind" which is someone's disposition

These are all appropriate ways to think about that word frame. I would like to focus on how you frame yourself or how others frame you.

Our understanding or perception of who we are and what we do comes from something we will call our "frame."

We all have mindsets, habits, and patterns of thinking and living. Some of these are helpful and others need to be cast off.

This pandemic has forced change on a lot of us. We've had to examine and re-examine our frame. Things we thought we could not do, we've done. Anyone who thought that technology would not become a central part of getting work done, had to change that frame.

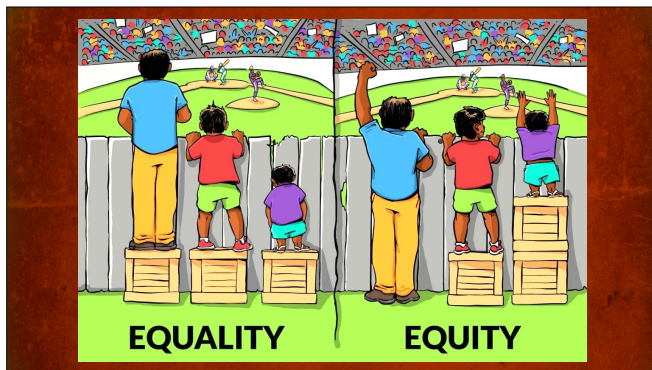
In the social sciences, **framing** is comprised of **concepts** and **perspectives** on how individuals, and groups organize, perceive, and communicate about **reality**.

For example: If I say “inner-city youth” we respond to that based on our particular frame. Some think about boys without fathers. Some think about kids being raised in poverty. Some think about the massacre on Adams Adams Street. We generally assign a negative connotation.

I was an inner-city kid raised by two parents, exposed to the same negative forces that other kids were exposed to. I have friends who were raised by single parents who came through and did well. A lot of us never conformed to the frame imposed on us. We were trained and influence to create our own frames for our lives.

In the “inner city” frame we take the worst examples to represent everyone. When they were riots last summer people said things like “Chicago is on fire.” Even the continuing protest in Portland are confined to a small area. What is the nature of framing as a relates to black folks to be extreme and negative.

I filmed Monument Circle with my drone last summer and posted it, someone asked “weren't you afraid being downtown. I have not been there in months.” In my frame, there is no fear of the city.



EQUITY: the quality of being fair and impartial.

EQUALITY the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.

These are entirely different, but related, concepts.

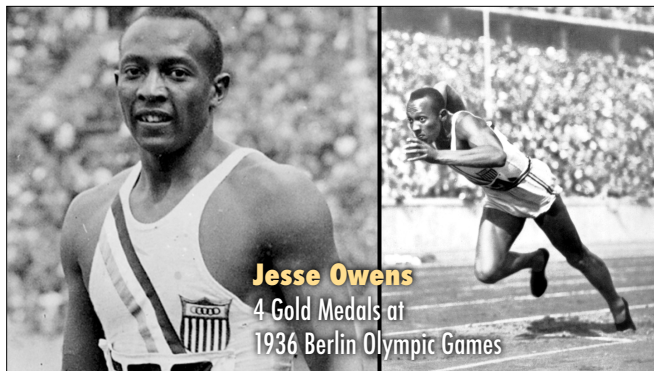
We do not look at something or someone and then "apply" a frame to it.

Rather, people **constantly project** into the world around them frames that **allow them to make sense of it.**

Framing can manifest in thought or communication. Frames in thought consist of the mental representations, interpretations, and simplifications of reality.

People build mental "filters." They use these filters to make sense of their world. The choices they then make are influenced by their creation of a frame.

I read Barack Obama's book, "A Promised Land." One of the things that stood out to me was that as educated, accomplished, decent, and competent, as this man was, many people still put him in the frame of



ESSE OWENS from Oakville, Alabama change the frame of everybody in the world who thought that Black people were physically and intellectually inferior.

At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, 23 year old African American track star Jesse Owens wins fourth gold medals. Jesse Owens and other African American athletes struck a propaganda blow against Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, who planned to use the Berlin Games as a showcase of supposed Aryan superiority.

Where it all began:

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..."

Genesis 2:15, Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to tend and keep it.** 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

We are literally frames for the image and likeness of God

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**We are frames for
the image and likeness of God**

Satan came to change their frame and break their connection with God. Something he still does today.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

**Q1: How have you been tempted to
change your Frame and purpose?**

Believing a lie and living in disobedience to God changes your Frame and **injures your purpose**

Genesis 3:6, So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. **She also gave to her husband with her**, and he ate.

Where are You?

Genesis 3:9, Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, **"Where are you?"** 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, **"Who told you that you were naked?"** Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

"The Blame Frame"

Genesis 3:12 Then the man said, "The woman whom **You gave** to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

The Blame Frame Game

1. One of the indicators of a lost frame is blaming others and not taking responsibility.
2. When held to account, others are blamed.
3. False moral equivalence, rather than take responsibility we divert attention to others who have done wrong
4. Create a narrative and an alternate reality

Let's talk about dealing with problems and having awareness

One of the worst things we can do is **denial**. Denial does not make problem go away, it makes problem worst because of inaction.

A year ago people started saying Coronavirus with “go away” or “disappear.” Some Christians prayed in that manner, which was foolish.

If you hear that the horn signaling a tornado warning, you can pray it away. You pray to strength to take action. If you heard the sound of a freight train, which is why people say tornados sound like, you don't pray it will go away, you pray for strength to hide yourself from it.

Q2: What do you need to stop denying so God can help you?

2 Corinthians 12:8–10

8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

You can't "pray" problems away

Prayer **changes you** more than it changes anything else.

We're so focused on **God changing our circumstances** that we **never allow God to change us!**

Re-frame your problems as a gift or an opportunity.

The gift of a problem **is not focusing** on the problem.

The gift of a problem is **activating your ability to flourish and thrive**. Remember, part of your creation is the be "fruitful and multiply."

Re-frame about problems as a gift or an opportunity.

The gift of a problem is not focusing on the problem. Surviving is not the only objective.

The gift of a problem is activating your ability to flourish and thrive. Remember, part of your creation is the be "fruitful and multiply."

What do you look like when you are flourishing and thriving?

Q3: What do you look like when you are flourishing and thriving?

SUBJECT / OBJECT Awareness

Subject and object are not the same things. **You and the problem are not the same thing.**

Awareness is above the problem.

Put your problem "over there" so that you can work on it.

Absent that understanding we are battling problems without solving anything. We say things like, "I don't want to talk about it" because we are one with the problem.

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Ephesians 6:12, For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

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Awareness to see needs in yourself

1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Matthew 6:33 is the Kingdom Frame:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Q4: What does seeking first God’s kingdom and righteousness look like?