



Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith

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.



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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.





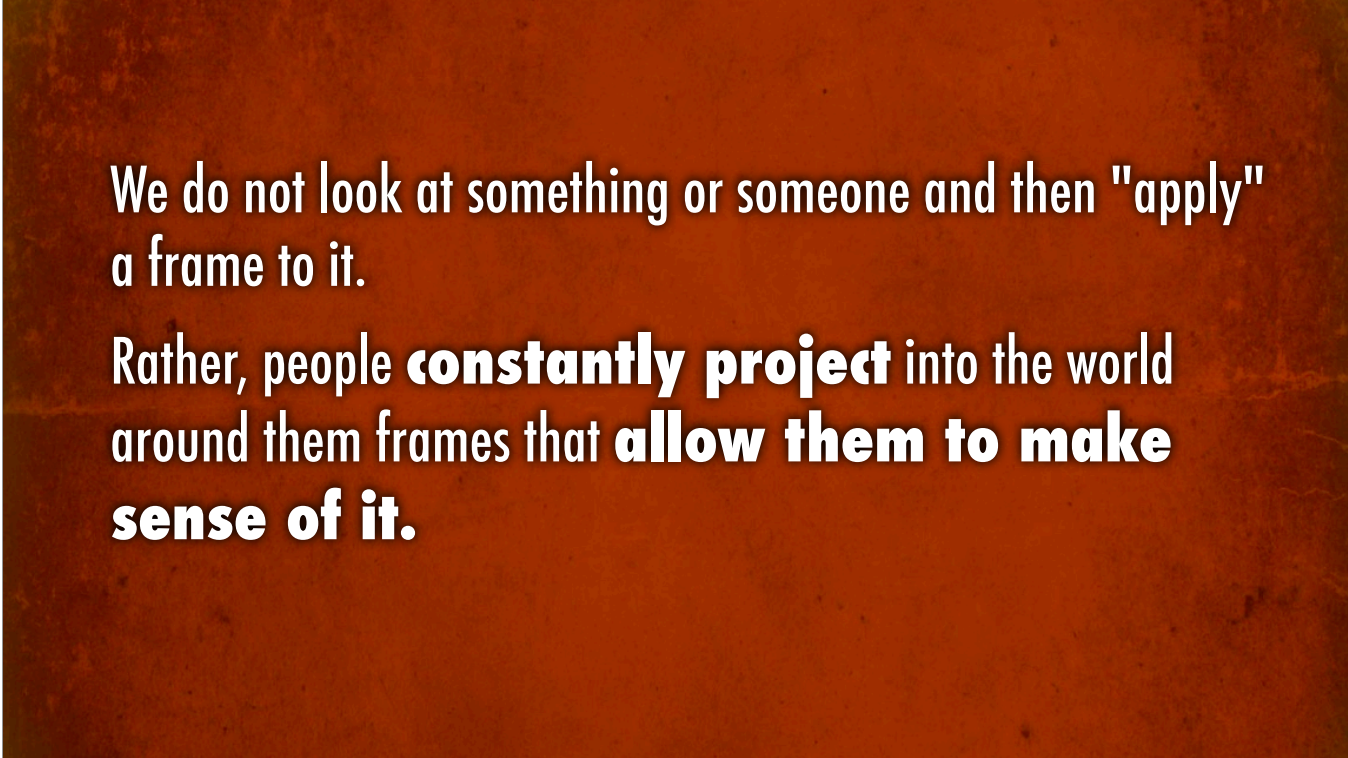


In the social sciences, **framing** is comprised of **concepts** and **perspectives** on how individuals, and groups organize, perceive, and communicate about **reality**.

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.



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.

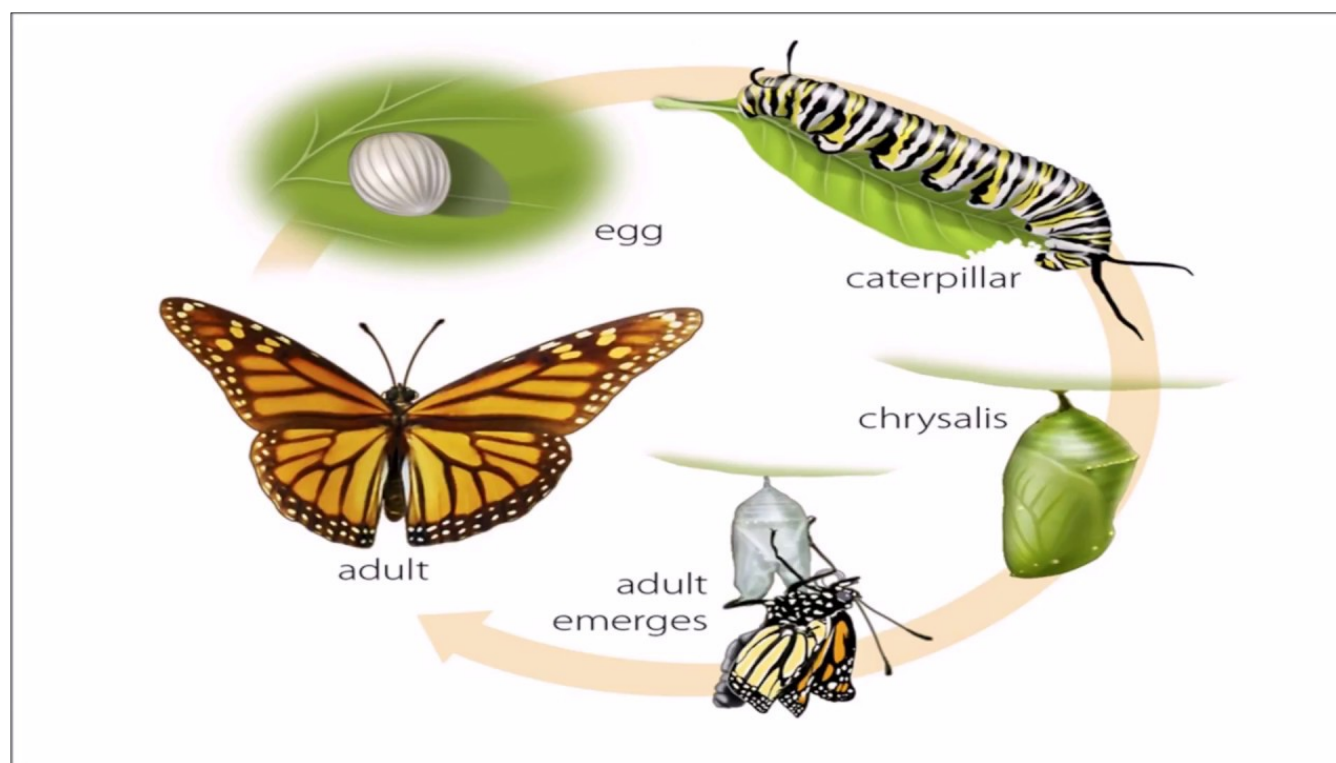
People build mental "filters." They use these filters to make sense of their world. The choices they then make are influenced by their creation of a frame.

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 a black person who can be disrespected like everyone else

Romans 12 does not address salvation because no amount of works produce salvation, just the gift of God.

Romans 12 is about **transformation** or metamorphosis:

This is about **caterpillars becoming butterflies.**



REMEMBER:

Covenant makes everything better.

This Scripture is an expression of covenant benefits
and responsibilities:

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Responsibilities:

- **Present yourself to God** / in your frame, you belong to God
- **Do not be conformed** / don't accept a frame that does not belong to you
- **Think soberly** / you don't let everything into the frame of your mind
- **Walk in faith** / you trust what God can do more than anything else

Benefits:

- **Be transformed** / this is the power to change your frame
- **Renewed mind** / this is the process of how we go from one frame to another
- **Walk in excellence** / your mindset
- **Live in the will of God** / what you anticipate
- **Think highly of yourself** / keeping your frame healthy and full of grace

Look at where it all began:
We are image bearers

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God **created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

We are literally frames for the image and likeness of God



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

We are literally frames for the image and likeness of God

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."

18 And the Lord God said, **"It is not good that man should be alone;** I will make him a helper **comparable** to him."

God created man in the frame of his image. He gave them individuality and purpose. He created man male and female for companionship.

God told Adam to tend and keep the garden. That was his purpose or frame.

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."

Matthew 6:33 is a Kingdom Frame:

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

Reflection Questions:

1. Your Frame: Who are you? (you are not your job)
2. False Frames: what lies do you reject?
3. The frame of your purpose: What do you do?
4. Frame builders: Who are the key influencers in your life?
5. Frame builders: Who do you influence?