

## **SERMON NOTES: Romans 12:1-2**

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV84)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer 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.

### **THE CHOICE TO COMMIT MY LIFE AND WILL TO GOD . . .**

#### **1. Leaves no room for passivity.**

- a. God has identified the problem: there is none righteous, no not one.
- b. God has offered a solution: God sent His Son to be our sin offering
- c. God is looking for our response: It is the *logical* next step

#### **Make a decision**

#### **2. Defines true worship as the way we live, not a Worship Service. Our sacrifice is:**

- a. living . . . not simply a reference to sacrifices that were substitutionary. We are now the sacrifice. We have been made alive in Christ and now are called into a relationship with God through Jesus
- b. holy . . . dedicated to God, set apart
- c. pleasing . . . What God has approved
- d. “spiritual” translates our English word, logical. This states our service is reasonable, informed.

#### **Make a decision**

Romans 12:2, <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer 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.

#### **3. Addresses the conforming effect this world has on us.**

- a. Pay attention to the conversations around you
- b. Pay attention to what your actions are saying about you.
- c. How easy is it for you to receive correction?

## Make a decision

### 4. Requires the transformation of our minds:

*But be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .* we are no longer to be conformed but transformed (metamorphosis) by the renewal of our minds.

- a. It is a process
  - i. What am I feeding my mind?
  - ii. How engaged am I in this process? Enough to counteract the conforming influence of this world?
- b. It has a reference point
  - i. A call to love God
  - ii. A call to love neighbor
  - iii. A call to love self

## Make a decision

The Third Step in “*FINDING ME*”:

**Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ’s care and control.**

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 12:1-2**

### **OPENING**

- Review the four steps Pastor Bruce suggested as playing a role in our commitment to God. Do you agree?

### **GOING DEEPER**

**Spend time discussing the conforming effect the world can have on us.**

- Pay attention to the conversations around you. Share the popular ways people describe what they believe about God, faith, morality, righteousness.
- What are your actions saying about you? They reveal much about our beliefs. Where are you investing your time, your money, talents?
- Our faith calls us to live well in the midst of conflicting choices. How would you measure your progress?

**Spend some time discussing the transformation of your minds?**

- Identify some elements in this process? How engaged am I in this process? Are you finding victory in counteracting the conforming influence of this world?
- Jesus provides some reference point for the transformation of our minds. What are some things that are crucial if our minds are transformed?

### **CHALLENGE**

**What decisions do you need to make?**