



Sunday, January 25, 2015

ROMANS 12:1-2

All of My Life

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SERMON NOTES: Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV84)

¹ 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. ² 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, ² 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?

Leaders Note: Refer to the four points in the outline given above.

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?

Leaders Note: In order to start the conversation, you may want to be prepared with your own reflections on this question. Share a concrete example of a conversation you have had recently where you sensed that someone held some incorrect ideas about God or faith. How did that conversation make you feel? How did you react to those inaccurate statements?

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 points for the transformation of our minds. What are some things that are crucial if our minds are transformed? (*Leaders Note: Refer to point 4b in the sermon outline, above, which is based on "The Great Commandment", Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-31*)

Leaders Note: Try to recount an incident in your life when your faith in Christ made a difference in how you viewed a situation, and how you acted in that situation.

CHALLENGE:

What decisions do you need to make?

- The Third Step in "FINDING ME": **Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.**

Leaders Note: Has the reading of this scripture urged you to make any changes in your life, such as how you might better use your time or focus your attention?