

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Romans 12:1-2

1. “*Therefore*”

- We have a great Savior and a great salvation. (Romans 1-11)
- We have a wonderful, awesome God who has showered us with grace.
 - * We now move into the discussion of practical Christian living; i.e., the practice of the Gospel and the impact of the Gospel on the life of the person saved by grace.

2. “*I urge you, brethren*”

- We are strongly encouraged to respond to Him and His gracious work in us.

3. “*by the mercies of God*”

- We deserve judgment resulting in hell but through His grace have been given a relationship with God and a home in heaven.

4. “*to present your bodies*”

- We must willingly offer our Body to Him for His use.
- Why the body? The body is the instrument of service to Him. It reveals our action.
 - * our actions, our full body, and it's use are to be fully yielded to Him
 - * sin resides in our body and so our body must be continually yielded to Him

5. “*a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God*”

- We must realize that acceptable worship is presenting ourselves fully to God. We must address disobedience in our lives. (1 Sam. 15:22; Psalm 51:17)
- Jesus offers the only dead (temporarily) sacrifice necessary for the Christian life but we are to present our living sacrifice (our lives) to Him.
- We must offer to Him our lives, hopes, dreams, our everything to truly live. Examples are Abraham offering Isaac on the altar, Paul's declaration in Phil. 1:21.
- We must submit to Him for His special purpose for us and giving Him our best. This call is not a half-hearted offering nor is it offering Him “seconds”.

6. “which is your spiritual service of worship.”

- Worship is the only reasonable response to God. Worship is giving all to Him. (John 4:23; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Heb. 13:15-16; Mark 12:30) Our heart should be, “I’ll go anywhere, give everything, do anything, I am yours!”

7. “And do not be conformed to this world”

- > Our BIG Issue — our area of conflict. This speaks to our mind. In previous chapters, we have looked at the soul. In v.1, we reference the body. Now we look at the mind, where we make choices.
- > Conform — made into something you are not. We put on a false appearance. We have been made new yet we conform toward something we are not in Him.
- Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould - J.B. Phillips
- We are not to have an outward expression patterned after this world - Wuest
- We must guard against adopting the world’s values, goals, and focus.
- We need to be careful not to apply this verse with legalistic rules. This is a matter of our heart and our pursuits.

8. “but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

- We are to change to reflect our inner, redeemed nature.
- The change occurs as we let God change us. (2 Col. 3:18; Rom. 8:28-30)
- We must have our mind changed and that change is through the Word and the Spirit. (Psalm. 119:11; Eph. 5:15-18; Col. 3:2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 3:17-18)

9. “so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

- As we submit, our will begins to align with His will. We begin to do His will.
- Through Him changing you, you will experience Him and reflect Him to all around you.
- This change process from worship of Him is an everyday process.