

Total Transformation

by

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Romans 12: 1-2

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul to tell of the Good News – Jesus Christ. The Good News reveals a new “way to be made right” with God. God provided the way for us to be right by sending His Son Jesus Christ. The Good News rescues people from the penalty of sin, and it transforms a person’s life. This transformation demands a completely new way of thinking and living.

Paul says to us that is by God’s mercies- by God helping us to do what he is about to say to us- that we bring ourselves as a present to Him. Present in this scripture is the verb form, which means *to offer something before another for scrutiny; to come forward for or undergo initial examination for a particular condition or symptom*. Now we already know and understand that our common symptom is sin. Paul entreats us with brotherly love and kindness to come and present for scrutiny, *close examination*, our bodies.

Our bodies refer to the whole of who we are. It means bring everything about you – our mind, our thoughts, our jobs, our ways, and our everyday life- to God to be examined. That means when we come to God, we come baring all and leaving

nothing hidden. Most of us can have a problem bringing us all to God because we have hidden who we are for so long or played a part for so long, we forget that He knows EVERYTHING there is to know about us already.

We present our bodies LIVING SACRIFICE. Living means we devote our bodies sincerely to God and allow His Spirit to live within us. A sacrifice is something that we feel is of value but will put it to death or give it up for the greater good. Before Christ, we felt life our lives were so important and in the revelation of Christ, we see that without Him our lives have no meaning.

We present our bodies HOLY & ACCEPTABLE. Holy means our bodies are not instruments of sin but set apart for God and however He chooses to use us. We must make sure that we feed our souls with the Word of God for it is a sanctified soul that communicates holiness to the body. The giving of ourselves is the thing that God finds acceptable. People have often said salvation is free, but the truth is salvation is Jesus' life for our life. It is not an even trade by any means, but it is what makes God pleased.

Presenting ourselves to God is our reasonable service. Never be mistaken and think that because we have showed up that we are doing God a favor or treat the opportunity to come lightly. Even the devil presented himself to God in the book of Job with the sons of God. *Job 1:6 (KJV) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

The least we can do for all that God has done for us is to come present ourselves the way that He has said with thankful hearts.

As we come, Paul tells us do not be conformed to this world. He encourages us not follow the customs or ways of this world that we live in. The ways of this world are fleeting and ever changing. What was in style today is on its way out while we are yet trying to pursue it. * When I went to orientation for college, I found it interesting how they so intently explained to us that by the time we get our degree in 4 years, the education we learned would be obsolete because

technology and knowledge is ever changing. So all the time I had spent chasing the American dream of having a degree was futile. I am not saying an education is not important but that it should not be the essence of who we are.

God does not want us to get accustomed to this world because this is not our final stop! God sent us here with His purpose in mind. We have been chosen to tell others about Him and to allow Him to be seen through us. *I used to say, “well it’s okay if I go out with my friends to eat while they get drunk and hang around then every weekend because even Jesus ate with sinners.” The difference between Jesus fellowship and my socializing is that they left changed because of being in the presence of Jesus. So if I wasn’t going to lift up Jesus before them that He might draw them, and do it at His command, I am being drawn in by the lust of my flesh to be free to live like them.

Instead of finding a way “to do me,” God wants me to be allow my mind to be renewed, regenerated by His Word. The more I put His Word in my mind and heart the less of the world can fill it up! I have to do this constantly. We must keep the Word of God before us.

Knowing His Word will allow us to know His will, coming into relationship with God causes us to know His will. His will is good, His will is acceptable, and His will is perfect – mature, complete, lacking nothing. If we do not allow the Word to change our minds, we will feel as though the way of God is hard. His ways are not grievous when you have been staying in communion with the Word constantly.

**** Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)**

¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

