

I. Offer Yourself - Romans 12:1-2

1. Paul looks back at God's past activity, then forward to present activity
2. "Urge" you (**verse 1**)
 - a strong request
- Rea -push you, admonish you, press you
3. In view of God's mercy
- Rea -because God has provided for your righteousness
- Rea 4. Note the word "you" - they have to do something... it doesn't just happen - it has not just happened because they got "saved"
5. The analogy Paul latches onto is that of the sacrificial system
 - other times he referred to himself as a "priest" Rom. 15;6
- Rea -we are a modern-day priesthood - 1 Peter 2:9
6. They are to offer their "bodies"
 - A. What type bodies?
 - holy - separate from the world
 - living - as opposed to the Old Testament dead sacrifices
 - pleasing to God
 - B. This is "true and proper" worship
 - rational, reasonable, and spiritual
- Rea -KJV - "reasonable" - it's only "reasonable" that as He offered Himself, so we should offer ourselves
7. Don't conform (**verse 2**)
 - A. To this world's pattern
 - B. Press you into its mold
- Rea C. We often say "well, that's just human nature" - God has saved us from "human nature"
8. Be transformed
 - A. By renewing your mind
 - B. The process of renewal - at Titus 3:5; Eph. 4:22-24
- Rea C. How important is the way you think... and are we taking "renewing of the mind" a bit too far to ask that question?
 - our modern world has convinced us again and again of how important is our "thought life"
9. By renewal we are able to test and prove what is good, pleasing and perfect will of God
- Rea -KJV word is "acceptable" - not any and every sacrifice was "acceptable"
- at Mal. 1:8-9 God told them to offer their "polluted" sacrifices to their governor and see if he would "accept" it
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Discuss exactly what is the "renewing of the mind?"
 2. We are conformed:
 - we allow the news media to "mold" our minds
 - we allow the colleges and their message to mold our minds
 - we allow cultural dress code to influence to their dress code

3. What would you say if someone said, “well I can’t control my mind?”

II. Live Authentically - Romans 12:9-13

1. Love is his topic (**verse 9**)

-must be sincere

Rea 2. Verses 3-8 deal with gifts - that is how we offer our respective “gifts” or sacrifices to God - at verse 9 we begin the spirit through which we offer them

Rea 3. How easy is it for love to become tarnished and insincere

-everybody loves nowadays... or at least they think they do

-discuss sincere and insincere love

-insincerity is hypocrisy

4. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good

-passionate - emotional

Rea -if your love is not passionate is it sincere?

Rea -what about the attitude that we want to be believers but not “fanatics” in light of this verse

5. Devoted to one another (**verse 10**)

-honor one another above yourself

Rea -is there a difference in “love” and “devotion?”

Rea -part of our Christianity is to think also about others... do you do that?

6. Don’t be lacking in zeal (**verse 11**)

-fervor

Rea -passion, enthusiasm the “want to” - don’t pray when you want to, or witness when you want to... but out of a sincere passion, or “zeal”

Rea -“fervor” speaks to the heat that drives us - boiling point

7. Serving the Lord

Rea -not just attending worship services

Rea -we want to have the Holy Spirit but not be full of the Holy Spirit

8. Joyful in hope (**verse 12**)

-patient... in affliction

-faithful... in prayer

Rea 9. We have something to be “joyful” about

We deal with tribulation with patience

We are faithful in our prayers - it is easy to let prayers wane - we need be faithful

10. Share with those in need (**verse 13**)

-compare 2 Cor. 8:4; Phil. 4:15

Rea -if you don’t think of others you certainly won’t share with them

11. Practice hospitality

-literally it might mean a traveler who needs a home to stay in for a while

Rea -as a characteristic of our character it might mean we are “open” to others, to their needs, and to have an open door when it comes to our lives

12. Our writer says that we are being “transformed” (verse 2) and here are ways in which we need to renew our minds

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. I love this list, even a dummy like myself can “get” this list

2. Here’s a challenge

- test yourself... test your mind/ thinking
- are you joyful in hope?
- are you sharing with others in need?
- is your life, home, time “open” to others?
- are you enthusiastic about your faith... or has it lost it’s “heat?”

III. Be At Peace - Romans 12:14-18

1. At peace with your enemies
2. Bless those who persecute you (**verse 14**)
 - don’t call on God to punish them (curse them)

Rea -is anyone persecuting you? Is that a good thing or a bad thing? Most of us do nothing to be persecuted about. Our faith is so watered down that most folk don’t even know we are believers.
3. Rejoice and morn (**verse 15**)
 - an intimacy

Rea -you have to “care” to morn - do you care that much about those who are hurting? Our altars used to be filled with those who cared enough to shed a tear.
4. Harmony with one another (**verse 16**)
 - not necessarily always agree but live in harmony

Rea -great example is husband and wife relations. Most husbands and wives disagree but that doesn’t necessarily mean they get a divorce.
5. Don’t be proud - associate with the brother of low position
 - “associate” means to accommodate

Rea -I know what “associate” means... it means to hang out with. Are we too good to hang out with the brother of low position? Pride kills Christianity!!
6. Repay/ revenge (**verse 17**)
 - don’t give back wrong for wrong

Rea -the “wronged” part of this is not questioned... this is a real person who has really been wronged

Rea -Jesus “forgave” those who crucified Him, even they “meant to” - answers an often asked question... what do we do with those who are our enemies, opponents, and “thorns in the flesh?”
7. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of the community
 - to do right is “respected” by everyone - it also makes you stand out like a sore thumb

Rea
8. If possible live at peace (**verse 18**)
 - sometimes it’s not possible
 - make the effort

Rea -bend over backward

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

 1. Discuss the verses here that relate to living with opposition - those who don’t like us
 - I was once told “I don’t have any enemies” - what do you think?
 2. Live with character - character is defined here
 3. Respectable Christianity - whether people agree with us or not
 4. Verse 2 says we ought to be transformed in our thinking
 - how do these verses counsel a lifestyle that is different in the way it thinks?

Charles Ray - SS Lesson for May 10, 2020