A New Way of Thinking ROMANS 12

Greg Kline · Romans 12:1–21

INTRODUCTION

- A common question that comes up among basically Christians young and old, prospects new and seasoned, is what does God want from me?
- This morning I'd like to discuss a new way of thinking. And that's the new mind that a Christian takes on when they dedicate their lives to, you guessed it, Christ.

1 By the Mercies of God

Romans 12:1; Romans 1:16

- This strong appeal from Paul was predicated upon the mercies of God.
- He was not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God and salvation to everyone who believes.
- Jesus left heaven to die on the cross for my sins. He left heaven to die for yours.
- God has done the impossible, giving me a chance at forgiveness of sins. I can do the possible.

2 Present Your Bodies as a Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1

- We are to present our bodies to God. How? As a living sacrifice that is holy and acceptable to God.
- A sacrifice is something which costs me something.
- David would not offer to God that which costs him nothing.
- We are to be living sacrifices, that implies two ideas. One, it is ongoing and current. And second of all, it will cost us something.

3 Not Conformed to This World, but Transformed

Romans 12:2

- Do not be conformed to this world. Don't be like this world. Don't be a part of darkness.
- We are held to the standard of the holiness of God.
- That means a complete transformation, where I no longer say what is my will, but what is God's.

4 Serve as God Designed

Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:12–19; Matthew 25

- The servant of God is humble.
- Our abilities are not earned. We did not earn them. God blessed us with what we've been given.
- It doesn't do any good to be so humble to the point of self-deprecation to where we don't serve God.
- There is no one important team player. You need the whole team. Only Christ is head.
- Whatever your gift is, use it. Don't squander it. But don't just use it. Use it diligently.

5 Let Love Be Genuine, Abhor What Is Evil

Romans 12:9–16; John 13:34–35

- Let love be genuine, abhor what is evil, cling to what is good.
- The Christian hates evil. Our entertainment choices will be filtered because we can't stand the profanity, the sex.
- The world says, take care of you. Jesus says, take care of others.
- Why would I zealously serve Him? Because I trust wholly in God.

6 Overcome Evil with Good

Romans 12:17–21

- Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.
- It teaches me that I don't have to get revenge because God will avenge.
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. That's what Jesus did.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Have I taken more personal vengeance? Or taken part in more personal evangelism over the past week. Have I put myself first more commonly? Or have I looked to the needs of others more or first this past week?**

MY NOTES