

ROMANS 12 AND THE NEW YEAR

I. AN EXHORTATION TO CHRISTIANS – Romans 12:1

A. Give your whole life to God - spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically.
“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee...”

B. Your life is to be a living and holy sacrifice. That is, you are to be living a holy life, sacrificing your life for the Lord. This is what pleases Him.

C. You are to worship the Lord with your life and your actions – worship is serving. Every day is for the Lord, every part of your body is for the Lord, everything you have is for the Lord, everything you do is for the Lord. Romans 14:7-9

D. Going full out for God is the right thing, the most reasonable, logical thing to do. 1 Cor. 15:58

II. KEYS TO OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD, AND KNOWING HIS WILL – Romans 12:2

A. We are not to be conformed to the world. We are not to live sinful lives – we are not to be worldly, doing things the world does, doing things the devil wants us to do.

B. We are to have our minds transformed and renewed by the truth of God’s Word. Meditation, that is, thinking, pondering, and going over God’s Word is the means by which we do this. Ephesians 4:23, Colossians 3:10. Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:15, 23, 97

C. The result of a renewed, GodWord mind is that you will know God’s will. You will know how to live, how to worship and serve the Lord, what to do in your daily life.

D. This is the good thing, the acceptable thing to do. It is the *“perfect”* thing to do, meaning it is the spiritually mature and spiritually grown up thing to do.

III. THINKING THE RIGHT WAY – Romans 12:3

A. We are to think rightly about spiritual gifts, our spiritual abilities, and in particular we are to be humble. This enables us to have sound judgment.

B. We are not to think too highly of ourselves. We are not to overvalue ourselves and our spiritual gifts. We are not to be proud about what God has given us.
“I am what I am by the grace of God.” 1 Corinthians 15:10, 4:7

C. Pride can be seen when people want their gifts to be seen. Pride can be seen in false humility - a person thinks he is no good, and has no spiritual gifts. Pride can be seen in that a person doesn’t use his gifts at all. 1 Peter 4:10-11

IV. THE CHURCH, THE SPIRITUAL BODY OF CHRIST - Rom 12:4-5

A. We have many members in one body. Each church is comprised of many members, whether we talk about this local church or other local churches in the world.

B. There is one body of Christ.

1. Hope Bible Church is one body, for we are a local church.

2. There is one body of Christ in a universal sense. When Christ looks down from heaven, He sees our church, but He also sees His entire body, the universal church. From Christ's perspective, it is His only body. Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 11:17

C. The members of the body do not have the same function.

1. The role, the part you play, the job you do is different than others in the body. Your role, your work is important. Don't put yourself down. Don't be lazy. Do your job. Do what God wants you to do.

2. The role, the work you have to do in the church relates specifically to the spiritual gift that God has given you. Use your gift and you are then doing the work God wants you to do. Do not compare yourself with others.

D. The many members make up one body. This is the team we have. This is who we are. This is encouraging and who God has made us to be. Pray for more! Luke 12:31-32

E. We are individual members of the body. Therefore, each member is important and valuable.

NOW YOU ARE CHRIST'S BODY,
AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS OF IT.

1 Corinthians 12:27

SOME QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What does it mean to present your body to God as a living and holy sacrifice?
What keeps you from doing this like you should? What helps you to do this?
3. Define worship in two ways. How are you doing in worshiping the Lord?
4. Talk about not being worldly, and being transformed by God's Word. How are you to do this?
5. God wants you to think rightly, to have sound judgment. What is He talking about?
6. You are an individual member of Christ's body? What does this mean to you?
How are you doing in serving, in doing your part in the church?
7. There are many members of the body? Why do you need others in the body? How are you connected to others in the body of Christ? How can you be more connected?