

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 12:1-2 A Living Sacrifice

Christian Living in Romans 12-16:

- Using your gifts to serve God and others (12:3-13)
- Relating to one another and outsiders (12:14-21)
- Relating to the civil government (13:1-7)
- Fulfilling the law by love (13:8-14)
- Respecting Christian liberty and scrupulous consciences (14:1-15:13)
- The Church's mission abroad and at home (15:14-16:27)

You can live a life of worship built by God.

1) The mercies of God are the foundation of the life of worship (12:1a).

- a) The Mercies of God: Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."
 - i) Mercy of Revelation—Rom 1-3
 - ii) Mercy of Justification—Rom 3-5
 - iii) Mercy of Sanctification—Rom 6-7
 - iv) Mercy of New Creation—Rom 8
 - v) Mercy of the Mystery of History—Rom 9-11
- b) **Application:** Praise God for His mercy. 2 Corinthians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

2) The holiness of God is the structure of the life of worship (12:1b).

- a) "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God"—well-pleasing
- b) "reasonable worship"—thoughtful, considered
 - i) Epictetus—"If, indeed, I were a nightingale, I should be singing as a nightingale; if a swan, as a swan: But as it is, I am a rational being, therefore I must be singing hymns of praise to God . . . and I exhort you to join me in this same song" (*Diatribes* 1.16.20-21).
 - ii) As it is we have the mind of Christ, the eternal Logos, therefore . . .
- c) **Application:** The whole life is holy to God. 1 Peter 1:15-16 "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

3) The Spirit of God is the Builder of the life of worship (12:2).

- a) Negatively: "Do not be conformed to this age"—Don't get with the times.
- b) Positively: "be transformed by the renewal of your mind"—The Holy Spirit makes us new in Christ. Titus 3:5 "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."
- c) **Application:** Relying on the Spirit by the ordinary means of grace.

You can live a life of worship built by God.—Discerning the will of God

Doxology: Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)