

Scripture: Exodus 20 & Romans 6 **Series:** *Love one Another #3*
Singing: 134 – 435:9 – 233:1, 2, 5, 6 – 271—321

Intro: Peter was a “witness of the sufferings of Christ.” (1 Peter 5:1; Luke 23:49)

THE CHRISTIAN’S REASONABLE SERVICE (2)

I. The why? II. The what? III. The how?

I & II. THE ‘WHY & WHAT’ OF THE CHRISTIAN’S REASONABLE SERVICE?

A. God’s mercies experienced are the heart of Paul’s plea (12:1-2)

1. If our theology is grace, then our ethics is gratitude (F.F. Bruce)
2. God’s direction how to *show this gratitude* is His revealed will (vs. 1-2)

III. The How of the Christian’s Reasonable Service

A. God’s will is that His people *be transformed by the renewing of their mind*

1. We are to be *changed from conformity to world to conformity to God’s Son*
For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29)

B. Before regeneration we are *conformed to world* (Eph. 2:1-3)

1. What was the center of our universe then? (Rom. 1:21-25)
2. After regeneration this *conformity to world* is still real draw & danger
 - a. vs. 2 is literally: *Stop being conformed to the world* (Phil. 2:12-13)
*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed (...) work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to **will** and to **do** of His good pleasure.*
 - b. not to be conformed to world *includes wise choices – painful sacrifices*
 - Ps. 1:1; Matt. 5:29-30; Luke 14:26
 - c. though mostly a matter of heart, it also is matter of *lifestyle*

C. Most effective way *to be conformed to world: aim at mind transformation*

1. Details of the grammar:
2. Details of application: *how does Spirit accomplish this transforming?*
 - a. through the *renewing of my mind which is done through the constant and prayerful attention given to God’s revealed **will***

“What wilt thou have me to do!? Teach me how to live for Thee?”

b. “*Apart from Me ye can do nothing*” means we “*can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*” (John 15:4 & Phil. 4:13)

3. Why is it so necessary to keep up *study of God’s will*?

a. because we came into the new life with the old life tugging along

- be open that Peter and Paul’s journey of learning be yours

- be open that your thinking may (still) be way off target

b. because even your *conscience may (still) be misinformed* (Rom. 14)

c. because it makes you more Christlike (Romans 12:10; 15:5)

D. Use God’s revealed will as a Nehemiah (1 Thess. 5:19-22)

Finally ... What will we learn *when we are transformed by Word & Spirit*?

A. What is not nearly so important: *outside presentation of our life*

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. (Matt. 23:25-26)

B. What is really important: *the living of Law of devotional love* (Rom. 12:3ff)

Let love be without dissimulation (sincere, not in words only but in the attitude, in the spirit, in the deed)