

Romans 12 – Living Sacrifices

Context

Having outlined the fullness of the gospel and teased out the tricky questions of how it relates to God's promises to Israel, Paul now shifts to focus on the implications of the gospel for our lives as Christian communities.

Verses 1-2

What is true Christian worship?

Why, when and how does it happen?

How does verse 2 help explain what true Christian worship is?

Try to write out verse 2 in your own words (or draw a diagram of the logic if you prefer!):

Think about it...

How are our minds renewed?

How does the renewing of our minds lead to personal transformation?

How would you describe the relationship between the gospel and the need to live godly and transformed lives as Christians?

Verses 3-8

What does it mean to 'think of yourself with sober judgement'?

How does Paul explain what it looks like in the context of serving in church? (v4-8)

How do you think this idea of humble service as a member of the whole body relates to the big idea of offering our lives in worship to God (from v1-2)?

Think about it...

Why is it so important for each of us to worship and serve as part of 'the whole body' of the church, for a) our own growth, and b) the growth of others?

Do you think you tend to *over-value* or *under-value* your contribution to life and mission of the church? Why?

What would help you to serve 'according to the grace given you'?

Verses 9-21

In this section, verses 9 and 21 serve as summary statements at the beginning and end. As we offer our lives completely to God in spiritual worship, we are called to sincere love for God and others and to goodness and purity in the face of evil. The various commands in this passage can be categorised as commands that relate to: a) our relationship towards God, b) our relationships with one another in the church, and c) our interactions with the world around us.

Take a few minutes to note down the various commands into these categories, then share / discuss at least one concrete example of what it might look like for you to live out such commands.

Commands about...	Summary of command	Concrete examples...
Relating to God		
Relating to each other		
Relating to the world		

Reflect & Pray

What can you do this week to...

- help with the renewing of your mind?
- serve according to God's grace?
- overcome evil with good?