



Reasonable And Radical Transformation

Romans 12:1-2

#17 in a series on Romans

Pastor Lyle L. Wahl

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Theme: **God's great salvation calls for your transformation.**

A reasonable request.

1. Because of God's mercy to you.
(1; see also 11:30-32; 9:23; chapters 1 – 11; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 2:4-7; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:3)
2. Because it is what God asks of every believer. (1)

A radical process.

1. Present yourself to God as a living sacrifice.
(1; see also 6:12-13, 16; Deuteronomy 15:12-18; John 17:15-16; 1 Corinthians 6:15, 19-20)
2. Swim upstream in a downstream world.
(2a; see also Ephesians 4:17-19; 1 John 1:5-6; 2:15-17)
3. Allow God to renew your mind.
(2b; see also Proverbs 23:7; John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 1:18; 4:17, 23-24; Colossians 3:1-11; Hebrews 4:12)

A radical result.

To see, approve, love and live by God's will.
(2c; see also Ephesians 5:10, 17; Colossians 1:9)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read and think through 12:1-2 several times. Here the apostle Paul begins to lay out some specific ways of living for Christians. These two verses are both a bridge between the first eleven chapters and the rest of the letter as well as the foundation for these last chapters. Why do you think he starts with offering ourselves to God and not being conformed to this world but being transformed?

Tuesday. Have you ever thought that God's call to offer yourself totally to Him was at least a bit unreasonable? Sunday we said it is reasonable because of God's mercy to us (verse 1). Look back at 11:30-32 to see Paul's summary of God's mercy. God is rich in mercy (see Ephesians 2:4-7). All that Paul has written about the gospel and our salvation up to this point is part of His mercy (read also Titus 3:5-7). By the way, what is *mercy*? Write out some thoughts under the heading "How God has been merciful to me."

Wednesday. God's process for you being transformed to be, think and live like Christ is radical. It begins with offering yourself to God as a living sacrifice (verse 1). Sum up in a sentence or two what that means. Then, you are to swim upstream in this downstream world and allow God to renew your mind (verse 2). On a scale of one to ten, where are you in being conformed to this world (check the references in Ephesians and 1 John listed on the outline to help with background)? Again, on a scale of one to ten, where are you on allowing God to renew your mind (check the other references listed on the outline for some perspective)? What is your biggest challenge in this process at the present time?

Thursday. When Christians cooperate with God so He can transform them, the result is radical: they see, approve, love and live by God's will. This is radical because on our own we cannot do this. It also is radical because we may focus on wanting specific answers to our questions and for our decisions. We can focus on the answers we seek rather than becoming the people who can see and live God's will. Are there any adjustments you need to make here?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at 12:3-21. Read these verses as you prepare for our time together.