

Fil-Am Community Church
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Family Camp
Romans 12:1-2
6 Sept 2014

White Flag Christianity

Romans 12:1-2, (NASB)

¹² *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

I. The way of the World is opposed to the way of God

Romans 12:2

² *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Do not be conformed any longer to this world!

Romans 12:2 Amplified Bible (AMP)

² *Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].*

Paul is calling for inconformity, that we would stand apart as different, a called out people.

Instead of being conformists, we must be transformists!

Transformation is where the power and the change come from!

The word transformed in Greek (Metamorphoou) reaches far deeper than conformity to this world. This implies a fundamental change in the Christians inward nature and character which corresponds to that new nature.

Paul is trying to warn us that the world's way leads to sin; a separation from us and God, and this is not what God wants for us.

He wants us to be in the world not of the world!

Paul says to "Yield your Bodies" your total personalities, why?

Because the body is the instrument through which we express ourselves.

1 Corinthians 6:20

"For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Here is the question for you to ponder...

Should a follower of God stand out from those he or she is surrounded by?

In the world there are thermostats and there are thermometers.

You may ask, what is the difference?

One registers the temperature (thermometers) and the other regulates the temperature (thermostats).

We are supposed to be the regulators of the world's temperature; we are supposed to be the thermostats in this world of evil that surrounds us.

The way of the world is opposed to God, Christ and the church.

¹ John 2:15-17 *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desire pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”*

II. It is our Obligation to Surrender

According to Wikipedia, the “White Flag” is...

- ✓ An international recognized protective sign of truce or cease fire, or a request for negotiation.
- ✓ It is also used to symbolize surrender. A “White Flag” signifies to all that an approaching negotiator is unarmed, with the intent to surrender or a desire to communicate terms.

Also according to Wikipedia, “Surrender” is to...

- ✓ Yield to the power, control or possession of another, under compulsion or demand.
- ✓ To give up completely or agree to forgo especially in favor of another.
- ✓ To give oneself up in the power of another or to give oneself over to something as an influence.

Romans 12:1

¹ *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*

Romans 12:1 Amplified Bible

¹² *I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.*

In order to be a “Living Sacrifice” you must cultivate his word in your life, so that you will be found to be in Gods perfect will.

To beseech or appeal to you implies an urgent message from Paul to the believers in Rome.

The word used in the original Greek is (Parakalon) which means...

- ✓ To implore,
- ✓ To Beg, or
- ✓ To Urge
- ✓ To beseech simply means to beg that you yield your bodies as a living sacrifice to God.
- ✓ To “present” means to yield, and suggests the handing over of a gift. It is the voluntary response of the believer to the Love, Grace, and Mercy of God.

While we are called to maintain and attitude of surrender, a daily change takes place both negatively and positively within us...

- ✓ Stated Negatively, Paul is referring to non-conformity to this world.
- ✓ Stated Positively, Paul is referring to true conformity to Christ.

As new creators in Christ, we are to live with the understanding that “Old” things are passed away, and all things are now “New” as found in 2 Corinthians 5:17

It is with great urgency that Paul is requesting his listeners to present their bodies as living sacrifices.

Paul’s words are timeless and just as relevant today as when he spoke them in his day.

He is beseeching each of us to live a Godly and Holy sacrificial life, dedicated to God!

III. Transformation should be a sign of Surrender

Romans 12:2

² “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Renew your Mind

I saw a Facebook post a few weeks ago that said God wants full custody of us not just weekend visits!

It reminds me of a quote by Charles Spurgeon who said, “Preach Christ or Nothing.” Don’t dispute or discuss anything, without your eyes on the cross.

In short, nothing we do should be done without the filter of eth Cross.

Referring back to Romans 12:2 how will we know what is good and acceptable?

The only way to know what is good and acceptable in God’s eyes is to read God’s word!

It the natural no one would attempt to do brain surgery without going through Medical School in order to do brain surgery, however, we (You & I) have no problem going through life without ever consulting the word of God to see what it says.

The Bible is filled with exhortations and instructions on how our lives should be run.

The Will of God

The will of God will never take you;
Where the Grace of God cannot keep you,
Where the arms of God cannot support you,
Where the riches of God cannot supply you needs,
Where the power of God cannot endow you.

The Will of God will never take you,
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,
Where the army of God cannot protect you,
Where the hand of God cannot hold you.

The Will of God will never take you,
Where the Love of God cannot enfold you,
Where the Mercies of God cannot sustain you,
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,
Where the Authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The Will of God will never take you,
Where the Comfort of God cannot dry your tears,
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,
Where the Miracles of God cannot be done for you,
Where the Omnipresence of God cannot find you!

Today we have taken a journey through Paul's writings to see him begging, imploring, beseeching, us to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God.

In Acts 9:6 Paul asks the Lord, "Lord what do you want me to do?"

We need to ask the same question, Lord what do you want me to do?

In scripture it tells us to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God.

The question is do you, do we do it?

- ✓ Will you present your bodies as living sacrifices?
- ✓ Will you accept the challenge to pick up your Bible more than on Sundays?