



Paul's letter to the church of Jesus Christ at Oklahoma City  
The Admonitions-Romans 12:1-8

Romans 12:1-2

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.

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

In verse one, Paul told the disciples how and why to live the Christian life.  
The why is the mercies of God.  
The how is present their bodies for God's use.  
Their body is their whole being.

In verse two, Paul told the disciples more about the how. Notice the word "and." He told them what to do in addition to presenting their bodies; be transformed by the renewing their minds.

- and be not conformed to this world

The word conform means to fashion to the same pattern.

When he said this world, Paul meant the system of false ideas that causes the world to practice evil. Behind every evil practice there is a system of false ideas. Paul said do not fashion your mind after those ideas.

The mind of the world is always much opposed to the mind of genuine Christianity.

- be ye transformed

The word transformed comes from the Greek word

Metamorphosed. It means to be transfigured; to appear as a new person. The new person is like Jesus.

- by the renewing of your mind

Paul said this transformation would occur by the renewing of their minds.

The word mind means intellect which by implication always includes both feeling and will; the inner thoughts, the inner feelings, and the inner desires. They all need to be renewed.

The word renew means to renovate. The word implies a radical and thorough change of the mind. Renovation includes internal demolition and reconstruction. An outward change is of little worth. This transformation requires a major flip of the mind. A major fixer upper of the mind.

- that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The word prove means to test. This renewal of the mind provides a way to measure what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. David said in Psalms 119:11...

[Ps 119:11](#)

[Your word I have hidden in my heart,](#)

[That I might not sin against You.](#)

[NKJV](#)

This renewal also provides a test for others to see what the will of God looks like when a disciple of Jesus follows Jesus.

After I became a follower of Jesus, I was told that this renewal would require that I develop new habits.

- [Bible reading](#)
- [Scripture memory](#)
- [Sermons](#)
- [Bible studies](#)
- [Christian books](#)

Lest his readers think that this renewal of the mind is going to occur in isolation, Paul followed up his admonition by saying this....

[Romans 12:3-8](#)

[3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.](#)

[NKJV](#)

Paul warned the disciples to avoid having an over inflated view of their own ability to renew their minds in isolation. He then used the human body as an analogy for how we need others to accomplish this mission.

While there are certain things we can accomplish on our own, this renovation of our minds to be disciples of Jesus requires the full cooperation of other members of the body of Jesus. (We call this team discipleship.)



In other words, the first 12 disciples had Jesus to disciple them.



We have the body of Jesus to disciple us!

Romans 12:3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

NKJV

He then shows how different members of the body of Jesus have different skills. He called these skills gifts.

1. Prophecy
2. Ministry
3. Teaching

4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leading
7. Mercy

Every member of the body of Christ has one or more of these gifts. He does not define or elaborate much on these gifts. He did not provide a spiritual gifts test so that everyone could figure out their personal skills.

He did not have to provide a test! The early church shared life together like a family shares life together. When you are living in community like a family, every member just naturally uses their gifts to serve the other members. If you were not sure what your gift was, you could just ask your community.

If you are not living like a family in community, then you will need a spiritual gifts test.

What good is a spiritual gifts test or spiritual gifts if you are not going to live like a family in community?

When you have a spiritual gift and you live in community, you are always exercising that gift. The other members of your community are built up in their faith and they learn how to be like Jesus by the way you apply the truth of God's Word and as they watch you use your gift.

#### Galatians 6:1

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

NKJV

It is one thing for me to hear that I am supposed to restore my brother when he falls into sin.

It is quite another for me to be with someone as they exercise the gift of prophecy and actually restore a brother.

#### Galatians 5:13

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

NKJV

It is one thing for me to hear that I am supposed to serve the needs of others. It is quite another for me to be with someone as they exercise their gift of service to someone in need.

#### Luke 6:36

36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

NKJV

It is one thing for me to hear that I am supposed to be merciful. It is quite another for me to be with someone as they exercise the gift of mercy with someone who is hurting.

This kind of learning only occurs on a consistent basis when you are living in community with other disciples. It should happen daily.

Due to individualism and isolation among disciples of Jesus, the rejection of the church as our family, and the lack of community in the church in the United States, we have created a culture of Christians that are mature in their knowledge but immature in love.

John 13:35

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

NKJV

Jesus said that we would be known as His disciples by our love, not by our knowledge.

Romans 12:1-2

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

NKJV

The motivation for presenting our bodies and being transformed by the renewal of our minds is the mercies of God.

Paul wrote this letter to both Jews and Gentiles in the church.

The Jews had been trained to believe that they could make themselves acceptable to God by keeping the laws of Moses.

The gentiles had been trained to believe that they could appease the wrath of the gods by making gifts to the gods.

They were both wrong. Keeping the laws of God cannot make your nature compatible with the righteous nature of God. Offering God gifts cannot appease His wrath.

Jesus presented His body as a sacrifice to make us righteous and to be the gift that appeases God's wrath.

It is only because of the mercy of God through Jesus Christ that we are not consumed.

Because of the mercies of God, will you....

Present your body to God as a living sacrifice?

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind?