Romans 12

lesus

I. Living Sacrifices to God Our Reasonable Response to Ch.'s 1-11

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.

- Chapter 1-10: Our Sin and God's Righteousness
- **Ch. 11** ends w/Paul praising God for His faithfulness...

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

In Light of all God did/is doing/will do...I beg you to do what is reasonable Present your body to God

1 Corinthians 6:19 ... do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?** 20 For you were **bought at a price**; therefore **glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, which are God's.

Romans 6:13 ...present [yield] yourselves to God as being **alive from the dead**, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

In light of all the truths of Ch.'s 1-11 It is reasonable to each morning to present yourself to God

1.	Mind	Things you think	
2.	Mouth	Things you talk about	
3.	Ears	Things you listen to	
4.	Eyes	Things you watch/look at/focus on	

5. **Hands** Things you do6. **Feet** Places you go

It is only reasonable to give all that we are back to Jesus since He bought us with His blood. Reasonable since we are completely forgiven of our sin. Reasonable since He gives us victory in this life and eternal joy in the next. Reasonable since He has delivered us from the bondage and penalty of sin and from death and from the devil and from hell. [NJC]

Reasonable: logikos

I beg you to do what is logical in light of what God has done for you...

Present the members of your body to God

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.

Undeniable Fact: We are either being Conformed or Transformed Conformed to the World or Transformed by the Spirit of God

- Conformed to the world: How? Do nothing. Path of least resistance. Float downstream
- World: Kosmos. Not nature but World System Arranged, Ordered, Governed by Satan

John 12:31 ... the ruler of this world

2 Cor 4:4b... the god of this age

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and **the whole world lies under the sway** of the wicked one. [sway Lit. quietly being buried alive/frog in pot]

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the **flesh**, the lust of the **eyes**, and the **pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

God had one Son without sin; but He has no son without temptation...Beware of beginnings... he who does not take the **first wrong step** will not take the second. [Spurgeon]

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

• 3 Sources of Temptation: Flesh, Devil and the World all working together

Our sin empowered by Satan constantly tempted by the things of the world IOW's Don't let Pleasure/Stuff/Status become an idol

3 Ways Satan conforms/molds victims to shape of the world/Catches men in his sway?

Lust of the Flesh/Lust of the Eyes/Pride of Life Seeing fulfillment outside of the will of God...

Lust of Flesh Perversion of Natural Appetite; e.g., food, drink, sex

• **Lust of the Eyes** Everything appealing to eye's insatiable demands. Ever enough

Pride of Life Arrogance/Self will. I am/there is no other. This is the world!

Do not be Conformed to the world...Seeking Pleasure/Stuff/Status outside of the will of God. Death

Instead... Be Transformed by the Renewing of our minds. Life

Growing from grace to grace

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from **glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

See ourselves being transformed into His image from Glory to glory by His Spirit

• Transformed: met-am-or-fo'-o lit. change into another form/ transform/ transfigure

Matthew 17:2... and He was **transfigured** [met-am-or-fo'-o] before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Ephesians 4:23 ... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind...

• What is the transformation? Becoming more like Jesus? Sanctification

• **How are we transformed?** By the renewing of our minds

How do we renew out minds? By Spirit through His Word as we let It speak to
us

Those who read the Bible to gain knowledge for the sake of knowledge will **stay** caterpillars

Those who read the Bible to be personally transformed will change into **butterflies**

IOW's Do I read the Bible to know the Bible...or to know Jesus?

Philippians 3:10 [Paul's burning desire] ...that I may **know Him and the power** of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

• **Power of His resurrection:** New Life live now. Knowing Jesus is transformative...

They tell me He is a refiner, that He cleanses from spots; He has washed me in His precious blood, and to that extent **I know Him**. They tell me that He clothes the naked; He has covered me with a garment of righteousness, and to that extent I know Him. They tell me that He is a breaker, and that He breaks [chains], He has set my soul at liberty, and therefore I know Him. They tell me that He is a king and that He reigns over sin; He has subdued my enemies beneath His feet, and I know Him in that character. They tell me He is a shepherd: I know Him for I am his sheep. They say He is a door: I have entered in through Him, and I know Him as a door. They say He is food: my spirit feeds on Him as on the bread of heaven, and, therefore, **I know Him as such**. [Spurgeon]

Do I read the Bible to know the Bible or to know Jesus?

Do not be Conformed to the World/Do be Transformed/Metamorphosized

• What is the transformation? Becoming like Jesus? Sanctification

How are we transformed?
 How do we renew our minds?
 By the renewing of our minds
 By the Spirit through His Word

Why do I need to be transformed/mind renewed?

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

As we are transformed on the inside, the proof is evident on the outside, as others can see what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is through our life. [Guzik]

Prove we belong to Him by working out our Salvation [Phil. 2]. Making our election sure [2 Peter 1] Change on the inside now visible on the outside. [NJC]

IOWs to the watching world...

This is what a true man/woman is supposed to look like, sound like, react like, love like

• Problem w/ a Living Sacrifice? Ability to crawl off the altar. Ho much God do you want?

Tendency when we see transformation? Pride...

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.

We are who we are and can do what we do...only because of God's Grace Some stunt their own Spiritual growth when God must continually put down their pride

Sober self-assessment

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am...

We should remember that spiritual giftedness does not equal spiritual maturity. Just because a person has substantial spiritual gifts does not mean they are necessarily spiritually mature or a worthy example. [Guzik]

Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. [C.S. Lewis]

• **Proud of our humility?** Is there something about our humility that feeds our ego?

Walk in Humility/Don't be Conformed/Be Transformed
Use your Transformation to Fulfill your Purpose w/in the Church

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.

Jesus is the Head of the Church in Heaven. We are His body on Earth
Jesus left His body to carry on His work

John 14:12 ... he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; **and greater** works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

We offer up our physical bodies to act as one body: Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, **so also is Christ**.

We all have different functions/gifts just a body has many parts. One Head.

Ephesians 4:16 [Jesus the head] from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

We deceive ourselves if we believe we can please God While isolating ourselves from our brothers/sisters in Christ. Sin.

Proverbs 18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire. He rages against all wise judgment.

The purpose of the church gathering is for God given/God gifted leaders to equip/encourage those within the church to use their own God given individual giftings/ministries to **edify one another**. [NJC]

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, **let us** use them...

Let us use them! Not suggestion but a Command

6b... 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.

You have one of these...God say use it!

- 1. Prophesy: Forth-telling the Word of God. Only what God tells you to say
- 2. **Ministry:** Ready/willing to serve in practical ways w/out applause
- 3. **Teaching:** Read Word/Say it in different way/Watch God change lives
- 4. **Exhortation:** Encourage/Comfort in/by Word as David/Jonathan
- 5. **Giving:** God loves a cheerful/hilarious giver
- 6. Leading: Superintendent/To make stand. How do I know? Look behind.
- 7. Mercy: Help afflicted/Bring help to wretched. Jude: Rescue from fire
- Can only use these when we are together fellowshipping

Reasonable Service after all God has done Ch.'s 1-11...

Present bodies as a Living Sacrifice to God every morning....

1.	Mind	Things you think
2.	Mouth	Things you talk about
3.	Ears	Things you listen to
4.	Eyes	Things you watch/look at
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5. **Hands** Things you do6. **Feet** Places you go

- Transformed: Minds renewed listening to/for Jesus. Ready to change/ bless others in humility
- Ask God to clearly reveal your gift then...

Use your gift w/excellence to edify one another in love

SUMMARY Living Sacrifices to God Our Reasonable Response to Ch.'s 1-11

As the Holy Spirit reveals our individual giftings God calls us to use them with excellence to Glorify God by Edifying one another

John 13:34 [Jesus washes feet] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another**."

Agape: Unconditional Love. Be found fervently loving when the sky opens

1 Peter 4:7 ... the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have **fervent love** for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

• **Fervent Love** *an-oo-pok'-ree-tos* Unfeigned, w/out dissimulation, w/out hypocrisy

II. Behave Like a Christian

9 Let love be without hypocrisy.

- **Hypocrisy**: Unfeigned, dissimulation, sincere, from rt. to not impersonate
- Sincere Love: Not kind to face but not after

Jesus *hates* hypocrisy. Calls us *not to be fake*. Love with a sincere love. How? God's Love working through us...

John 3:30 [Empty ourselves] He must increase, but I must decrease.

Romans 5:5 [Filled] ... the love of God has been **poured out in our hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Ephesians 3:16 [Paul's prayer] ... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with might through His Spirit** in the inner man, 17 that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to **know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God**. [*Impossible?*] 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

We are in debt to Jesus to love others

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything **except to love one another**, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

- What does it mean to love sincerely/unconditionally/fervently/practically?
- More than lip service but living sacrifice...

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. [Sincere love exemplified] 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- Love with Sincerity: Emptied to by Filled allowing God to love through us
- Love with Discernment: Love does not mean anything goes

9b... Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Love/Not love Game...Are these statements loving or unloving?

You're a good person. There is good in all people. Follow your heart.

All have sinned. None righteous no not one. Heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.

Be who you are. I'm so happy for you deciding to get gender reassignment surgery at 12 years old. In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Be tolerant. All religions teach the same thing, same god. There is no absolute truth I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Be happy. Take these pills and you will never have to feel pain/emotion again. Lose your life for My sake and you will find it. In this world you will have tribulation.

Take pride. Express yourself sexually w/anyone in any way you feel. It's all about you! No consequences

Flee sexual immorality. The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord. Neither fornicators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites will inherit the kingdom of God.

It's fine. Have an abortion. Its your body. Its your choice. No one can tell you what to do God created your baby and her life began at conception.

Psalm 139:16 [David] Your eyes saw my substance, **being yet unformed**. And in Your book they all were written, The **days fashioned for me**, When as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. 19 Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you **bloodthirsty men**.

Q. Why is government legislating perversion/lies/murder? **A.** Because they themselves are perverts, liars and murderers who seek to justify their own sin by condoning the same sin of others. [NJC]

Romans 1:32 [These] knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also **approve of those who practice them.**

The world does not offer genuine love but self-love. Not wanting to offend/feel discomfort w/no regard to end result of your devilish/selfish counsel, no fear of God, no regard for the truth of His Word. [NJC]

Romans 13:10 Love **does no harm** to a neighbor therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Love does not compromise Truth for the sake of peace

There is Absolute Truth. There is Genuine Good. There is Pure Evil What God says is Good is Good. What God says is Evil is Evil. **Period**

Psalm 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Be Emptied to Be Filled w/Spirit of God

Naturally/Supernaturally Love what God loves/Hate what God hates

Philippians 4:8 ... brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is **any virtue** and if there is anything

praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

- Love with Sincerity
- Love with Discernment
- Love with Humility

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...

- Jesus digs Humility manifested in...
 - 1. Kind Affection
 - 2. Brotherly Love
 - 3. Honor/Preference for others above ourselves

Philippians 2:3 Let **nothing be done through selfish ambition** or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself... **5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but **made Himself** of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Jesus' motivation for serving others in humility? He knew who He was.

He knew where He came from and where He was going

John 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had **come from God** and was **returning to God; 4 so he got up** from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

If we know who we are in Christ...where we came from/where we are going We will be motivated to get up and serve as Jesus served...in Humility

- Love with Sincerity
- Love with Discernment
- Love with Humility
- Love with Endurance

11 ... not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer...

- Love w/Endurance...
 - 1. **Be Diligent** Set face like flint to love and don't be deterred
 - Be Fervent Eager in spirit as unto the Lord: dzeho Lit. Boiling over w/zeal
 - 3. **Be Joyful** Hope and Patience in midst of trials...

James 1:2 Consider it **pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- Result of Enduring in love even through trials?
 - 1. Maturity/Wholeness in this life
 - 2. Eternal Rewards in the next

Paul says we serve God rejoicing in hope, not rejoicing in results. This shows how we are commanded to do all these things with an **eye towards heaven**. [Guzik]

Diligent/Fervent/Joyful all while praying continuously ...

Prayer keeps us reliant on the Holy Spirit of Truth to love sincerely

Pray steadfastly...

13 ... distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

- **Give to those in need:** Better to give than to receive
- Be Hospitable: You may hit the angelic lotto...

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly **entertained angels**.

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

Jesus digs hospitality...He love to go eat with others even Zacchaeus

Love with Sincerity
 Love with Discernment
 Empty to be filled
 God says what is good

Love with **Humility** Remember where you came from/Going. Mind of Christ

Love with Endurance Diligent/Fervent/Joyful w/reward to come

Now we're ready for the next command...

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Matthew 5:44 ... love your enemies, **bless those who curse you**, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Paul walked the walk...

1 Corinthians 4:12b... Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure...

15 **Rejoice with** those who rejoice, and **weep with** those who weep.

All part of one body: One part happy all are happy. One part hurts all hurt

1 Corinthians 12:26 ...if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

- Practical Application:
 - 1. **Promotions:** Rejoice w/one blessed not bummed it's not you
 - 2. **Funerals:** Cry w/one suffering not trying to cheer them up for our sakes

16 Be of the **same mind** toward one another.

Be of same mind? Renewed Transformed Mind. Mind of Jesus

Philippians 2:2 ... fulfill my joy by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

- IOW's If our minds are Renewed/Transformed...
 - 1. **We won't be** *offensive* Contentious/Quarrelsome/Aggressive/Offensive
 - 2. **We won't be** offended The humble are not easily offended

1 Corinthians 1:10b... speak the same thing...that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the **same mind**...

Romans 15:5 ... may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus

- **2 Corinthians 13:11** ... **Become complete.** Be of good comfort, be of **one mind**, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- **1 Peter 3:8** Finally, all of you be of **one mind**, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous...

When the church seeks the mind of Christ through the Word of Christ led by the Spirit of Christ, we will act as the Body of Christ to do the will of Christ. [NJC]

15b... Do not **set your mind on high things**, but associate with the humble. **Do not be wise in your own opinion**.

- Don't let pride to separate you from the humble in stature/dress/education
- **E.g.**, PHD w/4.0 Calculous/Trig who can't find way around block

IOW's Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought Don't flatter yourself... If you think you're all that...**then you're definitely not**

Galatians 6:3 ... if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Pride is Kryptonite to Unity... So, don't be a Big Shot. God hates it Now we're ready for the next command...

17 Repay no one evil for evil.

- Get feeling Ch 12 we must deflate to inflate in order to soar spiritually...
 - **Q.** So, who do we get to take revenge on? **A. Nobody.**

Okay I won't hurt them back. That's enough right? 7 Times? No. 70x7

Matthew 5:39 [Don't] resist an evil person. But **whoever** slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

1 Peter 3:9 ... [do not return] evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the **contrary blessing**, knowing that you were called to this, that you may **inherit a blessing**.

Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; Wait for the Lord, and **He will save you.**

Proverbs 24:29 Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

17b... Have **regard for good things** in the sight of all men.

Show regard for what is good even if it hurts...

The World/Satan are bent on provoking God's people to Evil to excuse themselves

We are not to be their excuse...

2 Corinthians 8:21 [Do what is honorable...] not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Make them say "I want that kind of self-control/kind of love"
 God will deal w/our enemies if they don't repent: Won't be pretty...

2 Thessalonians 1:4b... [You are famous for...] your patience and faith in all your **persecutions and tribulations that you endure**, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to **repay with tribulation those who trouble you**, 7 and to **give you who are troubled rest** with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people...

Sometimes peace at the moment is impossible because by def it takes both parties At that point we continue to pray but physically/emotionally detach. We have one God

Mark 6:11 ...whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them.

IOW's Nobody has the right to live rent-free in the head of a child of God

19 Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but rather **give place to wrath**; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

God will only deal with our enemies IF/When we don't

Deuteronomy 32:35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; **Their foot shall slip in due time**; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'

• Give place to wrath: Give God room to deal with those who hurt you

When we avenge ourselves, we are in effect playing God. At the very least we are implying that God does not see or care and will not act on our behalf... and He probably won't if continue to get in His way and try to fix it ourselves. Our job is to love. Period. [NJC]

20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good**.

- Choice when confronted by evil against us?
 - 1. **Be freaked out** by your enemies and melt in failure/defeat
 - 2. Freak out your enemies out with Grace and walk away in victory

IOW's Surprise your enemies w/Grace, Godly Reactions/non-reactions led by the Holy Spirit

Be Transformed by the Renewing of your mind

Display what is Good, Present what is Acceptable, Exemplify the Perfect will of God

SUMMARY Behave Like a Christian

Ch. 13 Now we're ready for the next command...