

THE HEART OF WORSHIP - ROMANS 12:1-2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** Often, when talking about the Gospel, one of the first words we use to describe it is "grace." It is interesting that Romans 12:1 says "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the *mercies* of God" instead of "by the *grace* of God." In 11:32 the text says "for God has cosigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all." This reveals much about God's character. Take a moment as a group to discuss the differences between grace and mercy, and how mercy specifically has impacted your own life and how it is reflected in the Gospel story.
- 2.** Romans 12:1 tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. What would be the significance of presenting our physical bodies as living sacrifices to God, and what implications does that have in our day to day lives? How can we practically live that out?
- 3.** Paul calls our presenting our physical bodies as our spiritual act of worship. In what ways are our physical bodies and spiritual acts of worship related?
- 4.** There is an interesting dynamic between the mind, heart, and our actions. Primarily it is ideal for our bodies to follow our hearts and minds into action. Our bodies are instructed into godliness based on our beliefs and volitional commitments. With that said, our daily habits are often good indicators of how well we are doing in offering our bodies as spiritual acts of worship. What habits do you need to cultivate or change?
- 5.** V 2 says "*do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...*" In what ways has being a Christian transformed your actions which separate you from the world?
- 6.** V 2 points us to the foundation for our actions... our minds. The mind is the battle ground of the heart. "*Do not be conformed, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*" In what ways do we do this great work of renewing our minds? (2 Pet 1:3-4; Eph 4:17-24; Col 3:1-4)
- 7.** What habits can we cultivate in our mind to help us in creating godly habits for our body?
- 8.** If you are a Christian, you already have a transformed heart and mind to a certain degree. The work of the Holy Spirit in your heart and mind has made you "alive with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4). We will not fully step into this transformation until we have died or Christ has returned. Are you living your life with a perspective that you already have a transformed mind and heart?
- 9.** Paul concludes verse 2 by giving the reason behind why we work to put our body, heart, and mind into submission.... "that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." The purpose is for us to live a Godly life in the midst of discerning his will for us. Every Christian reaches points in life in which it is difficult to discern what God is willing for their life. When was the last season of life in which you had difficulty discerning God's will for you?
- 10.** Are you prepared to do the difficult work of learning to make your whole self (body, mind, heart) work to be a living sacrifice to God as a spiritual act of worship?