

GROWING — Devoted To One Another

Pastor Danielle

Romans 12:1-5

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

The New International Version. (2011). (Ro 12:1–5). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

How do we understand worship and sacrifice, and who we are in him?

Last week, we saw how in Romans 14, Paul was writing to Jewish and Non-Jewish Christians who were struggling to understand their connection and relationship to one another.

Here in Romans 12, we have the same context.



Again, we are viewing ourselves in light of God's mercy: You are in a really broken sinful state regardless of your background. Now you are reconciled to God, AND you are reconciled to each other. If you are not reconciled to each other, you are not reconciled to God.

Paul is appealing to the Jewish and Non-Jewish Christians to stop judging each other over disputable matters.

Christ didn't just die to reconcile us to God, but to reconcile us to each other.

That is Christ's body → You, and you, and you, and you connected and imaging God to one another.



The problem for us is that in the PNW, we have perfected alone-ness. We have real pains but have excused ourselves from imaging God with worldly pains.

Pastor Danielle shared the story of how her pinky suffered a breaking blow when she was chopping vegetables because she was sharing her strong opinion with unchecked anger to one of her children which shall remain unnamed.

The point was clear: While her pinky was not involved in the argument, it was still part of the body, and it still suffered, and the whole body suffered.

Have you ever looked around the room at people and think, "They are a part of me?"

Paul does. In fact, he states *"so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

If we take a moment to stop and consider Paul's metaphor, we may understand how Paul understands our connection in Christ.

A Living Sacrifice of Your Mind

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Worship, as we can understand it means laying down our minds as a sacrifice, so that we can be transformed. Worship begins by offering our thoughts and our mind subject to God's mind.

When we subject our minds to God, we will know God's will. And Paul tells us what God's will is:

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: *"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."*

Offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, starting with our thoughts. And as we do, our mind will be renewed. The first step is to not think too highly of ourselves. But neither too lowly — We are all one body, and each member belongs to all the others. No body part should be denigrated it

It's All Connected

As we think of ourselves with sober judgment, think about our physical body. You can stub your toe and tell your toe to get over it. It's connected to your body, and you are responsible for your body's pains and issues.

If we see our fellow members as part of the body, our identity is placed in one another as much as it is in Jesus. Paul believes that our identity is wrapped up in one another. It means that you are responsible for caring for the problems and issues of your church family as you are for celebrating their wins and successes.

There are over 100 "One-Anothers" written about in the NT. About 30% of them stress love for one another, 1/3 stress our dedicated to one another, and 15% stress humility to one another.

These One Anothers are the picture of what it looks like to be the church.

Imaging God — Lay our Lives Down

Pastor Danielle shared her story of losing her phone and jeep keys down at the bottom of Lake Washington. Many people sacrificially helped (including lending a car) to help the Burkholder family get back home.

We sing "I live to worship, take this life I lay it down." Does that include your car keys? Your time? Your belongings?

We have seen you do this time and time again, but our meditation is to ask, "How do we grow in community and be devoted to One Another?"

If you're not connected in community, where you're known and know other people, you will miss the grace and mercy of God, and the renewal of your mind. You will miss being part of the body.



It took blood and sacrifice to unite us into One Body.

If you can't serve 50 people, you can serve one person in worship when the opportunity happens — and many opportunities make themselves known every week.