Sermon Notes

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) “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.”

In view of God’s mercy

- God met us in our sin and rebellion. Christ died for sinners, and God brings us into His family by adoption.
- Romans 10:13 reminds us that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. This mercy moves us to offer ourselves to God.

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice

- The Roman believers understood sacrifices as offerings that were killed or destroyed. The word “living” points to a life continually offered to God.
- We are embodied souls. Our bodies are how we speak, hear, serve, give, work, move, and obey. Offering our bodies means surrendering all of who we are.
- A living sacrifice is an ongoing offering. Each day we have life, we offer it to God to be holy and pleasing to Him.

This is your true and proper worship

- Worship includes church gatherings, music, Bible reading, and prayer. Paul also calls the offering of our whole lives worship.
- Our speech, work, use of time, treatment of coworkers, care for family, and stewardship of money all become opportunities to worship God.
- A life offered to God includes every day and every responsibility. Treating a difficult coworker as Christ calls us to may be a significant act of worship that week.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world

- The world pressures believers to assimilate to its ways of thinking and living. It encourages a faith that stays contained within a small part of life.
- The flesh pushes back against complete surrender with excuses about work, finances, relationships, or what other people consider normal.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

- A renewed mind recognizes the ways the world is trying to shape us and sees where following Christ requires a different response.
- Renewal is ongoing. The world does not stop trying to conform us, so we must continue renewing our minds.

Prayer

- Prayer is deliberate conversation with God. The Holy Spirit works within us to realign our priorities and bring peace, comfort, and conviction. We can ask God to renew our thinking in a particular area.

The Word

- Reading the Bible challenges the way we think. Reading beyond short devotionals allows us to encounter teachings that confront us as well as encourage us. When our thinking disagrees with Jesus, our minds need renewal.

Fellowship

- Fellowship is intentional friendship with other believers who love Jesus and are also having their minds renewed. These friends can challenge us when we get off track and point us back to what Christ calls us to do.

Then you will be able to test and approve God's will

- A renewed mind helps us recognize God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. Scripture may already speak clearly to a decision, and faithful Christian friends can help us recognize whether an action honors Christ.
- The call to offer ourselves as living sacrifices gives direction to our choices. A life surrendered to God is His will for us.
- Recognizing God's will does not always make obedience easy. A renewed mind helps us see difficult acts of obedience as worship that is pleasing to God.