

Intro: 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

This is how Paul started his letter, and this is how we began our journey in the Book of Romans. (7 mo's)

- Not ashamed vs16
- It's the power of God to salvation vs 16b
- In it God's righteousness is revealed vs17
- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness.

And from that point on it was a deep sincere look into our own ungodliness A spiritual gut check.

A look into our futile thoughts, foolish hearts – darkened without the Lord. Your right Paul, I agree! I've used my own self-righteousness and good deeds to overlook my deep sense of need for God.

Oh I may not have tried to adhere to the Mosaic law as the Jews sought to but I sought to hold on to my own law to hide the fact that in God's eyes I'm just as sinful as the next guy.

And when L.L. Cool J sang "I need love" I agreed but it was the wrong love I was in search of. I needed forgiveness, healing, salvation, I needed grace..... I needed God's love.

Paul said "Don't trip Wens, All have fallen short of the glory of God." Don't you know that it's the goodness of God that leads you to repentance?"

He began to teach me, no teach all of us, that God's love offered forgiveness at the cross. And if we would except that sacrifice for sin we would be justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Justified!
- Peace with God!
- Ch 5 said we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.

There's a struggle all of us Christians will face on the inside, as Paul did, but he concluded that there's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk after the flesh but the spirit.

All things are working for our good, and nothing shall separate us from the love of God. You see we're forgiven cleaned up children of God, that God's always had a plan for. We're the elect, chosen by God before time began. We were shown through the dealings God has with Israel that we are those God has foreordained to be the called.

Those God calls He keeps, if we want to be kept. If we choose to stay grafted in to the tree and share the fatness of the root we may.

12:33 "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding out!"

What is our response to that? How do we now respond to the grace of God, the love of God?

RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL

I. In Presenting Ourselves (vs1-2)

- A. Our bodies vs1
- B. By being changed vs2

II. In Our Service To God (vs3-8)

- A. Humbleness First
 - 1. In all our serving

1-2 I. IN PRESENTING OURSELVES

1 A. Urged To Present Our Bodies

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.

1a 1. **I beseech you therefore brethren** Whenever you see the word “therefore” written in scripture, you need to search out & understand what it’s there for. And I believe what Paul is saying, as he also uses word beseech, is Because of the message of salvation given to you, because of the mercy and love God has shown you, he says **“I beseech you”**.

a. **“beseech you”** is a strong appeal to our will. It means to call someone close to you and begin to beg them, strongly urge them to a particular action.

b. “Because of all this I’ve shared with you thus far I’m begging you to respond to the message preached.” By an action!

2. **“By the mercies of God”** We need to understand that if it weren’t for the tender mercies of God, we wouldn’t have the strength to respond w/ any action. We’d still be lost in our sin.

3. I find it interesting how Paul pleaded with the Cor church in 2 Cor 10:
1-4. (see)

a. I’m begging, pleading with you that I don’t have to go there n be bold with you.

b. I’m not going to go there n grab you and put you in a head lock.....
though we walk in the flesh we do not war according to the flesh

c. God won’t force you either.

d. God won't invade your will.

1b 4. So it's as though God is pleading with you and I as well through the apostle Paul, *"That you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your reasonable service".*

a. *"present your bodies a living sacrifice"* Paul's saying this is your reasonable thing to do. Since the penalty for the sins you've committed all your life, past , present & future, have been forgiven. Since Christ gave His life so that you & I can live forever. Since He became a dying sacrifice, the reasonable, rational thing to do is to respond by giving Him our bodies as a living sacrifice.

i. Which means we may not be asked to die for Him, but we are urged to live for Him.

5. *"Holy, acceptable to God"* I love this verse because it's so rich with meaning. Remember the animal sacrifices the Jews were so familiar with? How they had to be holy meaning with no defects or blemishes.

a. They couldn't already be dead

b. They had to be acceptable.

c. You couldn't give God your left overs or unwanted flawed second best.

d. Since God gave you His best, your reasonable thing to do is give God your best.

e. **1 Cor 6:19-20** Or 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.

f. He's not saying sacrifice your money though it could be; he's not saying sacrifice your things though that could be – he's saying for

us to give God our bodies. Our lives. That's what God's looking for. From you and from me.

***** g. Andrew Murray wrote "*God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life that is totally yielded to Him*"

6. God wants your body, He wants you to live for Him. To serve Him in your body. To do what pleases Him in your body.

***** a. **1 Peter 4:1-5** *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

7. Wenses, how do I begin doing this? For some of you It may be to disconnect from a person you know is not a Christian.

***** a. **2 Cor 6:14-18** *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."* NKJV

b. *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

8. In todays world sex isn't that big a deal. It's part of the norm. Our schools don't teach our kids to refrain from sex but in some cases teach them to have sex just use safe sex. Any sex outside of the will of God is not safe .

a. **Go To 1Cor 6:12**

b. **"All things are lawful for me"** a popular phrase of Corinthians based on a false view of Christian freedom.

i. Will this enslave me? Will this activity really profit my spirit life?

c. **"Food for the stomach and stomach for foods"** Another popular argument of theirs. They treated sex as an appetite to be satisfied, not as a gift from God to be protected & cherished.

d. **vs13b "The body is not for sexual immorality"**

All this to say, if the message of the cross has indeed reached you; if the love of God and the grace of God has captivated you then the reasonable response is to give Him your body. To glorify Him in our bodies.

There's another response Paul's asking of us in vs 2....

(Responding to the gospel)

2

BY BEING CHANGED

Vs2 "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".

2 1. **"And don't be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"** Paul saying the body is one thing the mind is another. God's asking us not only to respond to His love and mercy by giving Him our bodies but He's also asking us to give Him our thoughts as well. Our mindset.

a. Allow God to transform the way we think.

b. And I think they go hand and hand, many times as the mind thinks eventually the body goes.

2a 2. And so he says **“don’t be conformed to this world”** which means “growing” into conformity. Fashioned like another. That could be quickly or slowly.

a. Keep yourself from slowly growing into the likeness of the world.

b. Allowing the world to mold you into it's form.

c. The bible warns us to be careful with loving the things in this world. **1 John 2:15-17** **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.**

d. As Christians we are not “of” this world. This is their world we’re just passing through.

e. So don’t be surprised if while we seek to resist being conformed to this world that we are hated on. Jesus said **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**

2b 3. **“but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”** Not only do we resist one thing but we strive for another.

a. to **“be transformed”** metamorphoo. Which means to change into another form.

b. Like a tadpole to frog; caterpillar to a butterfly.

i. (caterpillar can only crawl on ground; butterfly flies. Ugly beautiful)

c. When the Lord comes into your life you now have the ability to be transformed to be made in His image. To go from just crawling through life to flying. To be made beautiful. To be transformed.

d. **2 Cor 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.

2c 4. **"by the renewing of your mind"** We once were aliens in our minds.

We thought contrary to the things of God.

a. **Col 1:21-22** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight —

b. The way to be transformed in life is to begin with our thinking. Continue being renewed daily by the word.

c. **"If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation old things have passed away, behold all things have become new"**

d. **Titus 3:3-6** 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

5. **"that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God".**