

## Entrusted

Romans 12.1-2

February 12, 2023

I hope you're being challenged as you consider how effective you've been in handling the things God has entrusted to you. It's my intention to keep the questions trimmed down to one page, but as always, proceed at your own pace through them. It's still true, you don't have to answer each and every question!

Pastor Eric

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*Sharing:* What was the style of dress when you were in high school? What was the common hair style?

Let's tackle our very personal and challenging question, "How is God being honored by what he's entrusted to me?" by taking a careful look at **Romans 12.1-2**. Read the text, and perhaps re-read it. You may even want to read it in another translation. The words are powerful and important. See if you can write down a summary or even a paraphrase of these two verses.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12.1-2  
*New Living Translation*

What are the Scriptures challenging us to do in verse 1? Noting that the language here is borrowed from the Old Testament sacrificial system, what is this sacrifice of which Paul speaks? What characterizes it? What does he mean by presenting your "body?"

As suggested during the message on Sunday, verse 2 is the means to fulfilling verse 1. First Paul states the answer negatively. What are we *not* to do in order to present ourselves as living sacrifices? What does it mean to conform to this world? How does it happen? Why is conforming opposite to what we're called to do in verse 1? What are some long-term implications of being conformed to the world?

The remainder of verse 2 tells us what we are supposed to do to fulfill the edict of verse 1. What must we do and what does it result in? Now note that the result of renewing my mind is what results from presenting myself as a living sacrifice.

What's the pivotal role of the mind in Paul's way of thinking? If the mind refers to our thought-processes, how is that vital to the way we live?

*For personal reflection:* What does your mind feed on? What are the typical sources of your ideas, images, information, and thinking? What can you purposely choose to set before your mind that will result in its constant renewal? Make a commitment to change what your mind feeds on!

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4.8

