

A Christ Centered Life

Romans 12:1-3 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.

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.

- Romans 12:1-3

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1. We must present ourselves as living sacrifices.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Which is your spiritual worship”

(Romans 12:1, NIV)

“If the former (reasonable) is correct, then the offering of ourselves to God is seen as the only sensible, logical and appropriate response to him in view of his self-giving mercy. If ‘rational’ is correct, then it is ‘the worship offered by mind and heart’, spiritual as opposed to ceremonial, an act of intelligent worship, in which our minds are fully engaged”

(John Stott, The Message of Romans, pg. 321)

2. We do not live by worldly standards
but by Biblical standards.

“Do not be conformed to this world”

(Romans 12:2, NIV)

3. Christianity is a way of living,
not a weekly appointment.

“...but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,”
(Romans 12:2, NIV)

“...but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”

(Psalms 1:2-3,NIV)

Lastly, we can always keep growing in our journey in Christ.

“...that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

(Romans 12:2-3, NIV)

“So the idea is that the genuineness of something — in this case the will of God in Romans 12:2 — is found out by an appropriate test. For metals, it is often fire. For genuine ripeness in fruit, it would be like tasting. And for genuine health in a horse, you might look at his teeth. And here, interestingly, powerfully in Romans 12:2, the thing to be recognized is the will of God — namely, what is good and acceptable and perfect. And the question is: So, what is the test? Do you look at the teeth of the will of God? Or you put your tongue on the behavior you are testing? Do you put some match to it? What is the test? And Paul answers, “The renewal of your mind is the test; by the renewal of your mind, you will be able to discern by testing what is the will of God.”

(Pastor John Piper, interview with John Piper, Ask Pastor John)

