



# STUDY GUIDE

## RIGHT WITH GOD 8.23.2015

### [set up]

As a teen, how did peer pressure affect the way you dressed? Where you went? How you acted?

### [digging deeper]

Read Romans 11:33-Romans 12:2. How does Romans 12:1-2 relate to Romans 11:33-36?

Romans 12 begins with the word “therefore.” We should ask, “What is the ‘therefore’ there for?” The answer is found in the preceding 11 chapters. Look back over Romans 1-11. As you review, write down in a visible place (for all the group to see) some of the truths about the mercies of God and your identity in Christ that thrill your heart the most.

The exhortations of Romans 12-16 are built firmly on the theology of Romans 1-11. Romans 1-11 focus on “What God has given us.” Romans 12-16 focus on “What we are to give God.” Why does the order of these thoughts matter, i.e. why start with what God has given us before we move to what we are to give God? What light does Philippians 2:12-13 (we work out what He works in) shed on this?

Read and compare Romans 12:1 with Romans 6:13, 19. How does presenting your “members” as stated in Romans 6:13, 19 shed light on what presenting your “bodies” means in Romans 12:1? How might it be helpful for you to (literally and prayerfully) present specific body parts to God?

What are the practical implications of what it means to be a “living” sacrifice? A “holy” sacrifice? An “acceptable” sacrifice?

Read the following quote: “Because believers are live rather than dead sacrifices, they have a tendency to want to crawl off the altar. That’s why this deliberate decision to place oneself at God’s disposal must be made repeatedly” (Chuck Swindoll, *Relating to Others in Love*, p. 1). What kinds of things cause you to crawl off the altar? How do you know if and when you’ve crawled off the altar? What helps you crawl back on the altar?

Why is presenting your body as a living, holy, acceptable sacrifice necessary for true, spiritual worship? Note: “The Christian is called to a worship that is not confined to one place or one time, but that which involves all places and all times” (Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, p. 754). What are the personal implications of these truths for corporate weekend worship services?

How do Romans 12:1 and Romans 12:2 connect and relate to one another? Some would say that Romans 12:2 gives us the means to obey Romans 12:1. “We can present our bodies to the Lord as genuinely holy and acceptable sacrifices only if we ‘do not conform to this world’ but ‘are transformed by the renewing of the mind’” (Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, pp. 754-755).

Read 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Corinthians 2:6, and Galatians 1:4. Since we are still living in the world, its influence is still powerful. In what areas of life are you most tempted to conform to the world – to let it “squeeze you into its mold”? Note: Think about entertainment decisions, family life, spending habits, career choices, vacation destinations, etc. What pressure points from the world seem strongest to you?

Transformation happens as we renew our minds. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. “This ‘re-programming’ of the mind does not take place overnight but is a lifelong process by which our way of thinking is to resemble more and more the way God wants us to think” (Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, p. 756-757). Brainstorm 8-10 practical ways that we believers in 2015 can renew our minds. Write these down in a visible place (for all the group to see).

How do you determine the will of God for your life? Is it easy or hard to discern God’s will? Read Psalm 40:8. We can present our bodies and renew our minds so radically “that we know from within, almost instinctively, what we are to do to please God in any given situation” (Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, p. 758). How does this understanding impact your view on the difficulty of discerning God’s will?

## **[living it out]**

What is one area of life where you are hoping for and needing a radical transformation?

How can you – practically speaking – present your body as a living sacrifice in everyday life?

How can you – practically speaking – refuse to conform to the world in everyday life?

How can you – practically speaking – transform your mind in everyday life?

Romans 12:1-2 is one of the best-known passages in the NT for a reason. Its fame is justified because it summarizes what our response to God’s grace in Christ should be. Challenge everyone in the group to memorize Romans 12:1-2 if some in the group haven’t already done so.

Look back at Romans 10:13-15. How do these verses motivate you to continue and maybe even ramp up your New Life 10|24 commitment and participation (praying for people you know that aren’t saved and sharing the gospel conversationally at least twice a month)?