

Romans 12:1-2 Living Together, pt 1

1/24/10 - The Exchange

- I. Review - going back into an application mode. Living Together 2 parts
- II. 12:1-2
 - A. Transition verses between 11 and application of 12.
 - B. It isn't primarily and emotional appeal as it is a rational one, a thinking one, although not exclusively, and the emotional and physical should flow from it.
 - C. 12:1
 1. therefore - set the context
 2. beseech - to come along side and speak kindly yet urgently, to desire, beg, console, teach, strengthen. "Dudes, seriously," Paul's heart for them.
 3. you - plural. This will put everyone on the same level, for later.
 4. mercies - one kind that is expressed in help, action. "Be merciful" "Have mercy" This kind is such that it feels because of the suffering of others. Used 5 times. An intense compassion, suffering with because of suffering. God's heart for them/us. Both practically and spiritual state. He feels for U.
 5. present - play on words in English, like a present (gift). you place, cause it to stand, give it to the person. Cats and mice.
 6. bodies - just so
 7. living - to be alive, animate, the opposite of dead
 8. sacrifice - just what it sounds like, a thing given over as an offering, given completely. Why are sacrifices given? Has to do with our relationship to/with God.
 - a) Requirement and obedience. Not here.
 - b) To make atonement, appeasement of the gods. Set it and forget it, go on as normal until next time. Not here.
 - c) A voluntary gift. Yes. Without expectation of return. Die to yourselves. Rom. 6, Jesus "take up your cross" Everything we are, have, think feel.
 - d) Why? mercies as demonstrated in Jesus, The Sacrifice.
 - e) Making Xianity sound like a major drag! Part of a big pict.
 9. holy, acceptable - perfect and without blemish, well pleasing.
 - a) How is it we can be this now? Because of Jesus.
 - b) Do we stop trying? Only if you're trying for the wrong reasons. You are and are becoming these.
 10. walk that through. Why?...
 11. reasonable - with reason, intellect, thoughtful, done knowing what you are doing, done deliberately having thought it through, not done from blind or thoughtless obedience, not done purely emotionally or carnally as some heathen practices. This is the rational, reasonable thing to do in light of all of this so far.
 12. service - religious service such as a levitical priest would perform, an act of worship. Why? Response to the awesomeness of God experienced in 11:36. It's a "want to" not "have to".

D. 12:2

1. **don't be conformed** - fashioned after the same pattern outwardly (be not is imperative). Putty. The world is out to conform people.
2. **transformed** - (also imperative) in contrast to **conformed**, this is changed from one form into another, **exchanged life**
3. **renewing** - renovation, complete change, where the transformation begins
4. **mind** - thinking, feeling, reason, conscience, in opposition to fleshly appetites. "have you lost your mind?" To be in your right mind. Connects back to **reasonable**, and **11:34**.
5. "Stop being molded by the external and fleeting fashions of this age, but undergo a deep inner change by the qualitative renewing of your mind."
6. **prove** - kid tested, mother approved. passed the test
7. **good, acceptable** - just so, same as above
8. **perfect** - complete, nothing lacking, nothing extra, at the end
9. **will of God** - what you want to see happen, purpose

E. What does this mean?

1. The process of being transformed by the renewing of our minds, of being living sacrifices that we voluntarily present as our reasonable service, all of this is the testing process, the proving process, that is the complete will of God.
2. What is God's will for my life? To be a living sacrifice, to be going through being transformed from the inside out by the renewing of my mind, which is done by the HS and the experiences we go through.
3. The key to having a transformed life, one of the major points of the Christian life, is changing the way you think, which will change the way you act.
 - a) It isn't to simply adopt a new morality, a new code, it's a new mind, a new thinking.
 - b) People accuse people like me of brainwashing, or Christianity is all about brainwashing, not thinking for yourself. Ironically, people who say that have been brainwashed into saying that.
 - c) I've been to university. They don't teach you to think for yourself, they absolutely teach you what to think and believe. It is as much brainwashing as anything it.
 - d) Besides, thinking for oneself, deciding for oneself, is exactly the temptation Satan used in the Garden. "You can know, you can discern, you can decide for yourself what is good an evil, you don't need God to do that for you."

III. How does this happen

- A. By following Jesus' example. **Phil 2:5-11**. How is that accomplished?
- B. Discipleship. The church, discipleship needs to be the center, the hub of your life. It's not one or the other, it's which one comes first.
- C. How are you obeying these commands? How can you? Spirit.