Living Word Fellowship Church A Body of Service Romans 12:1-2 Minister Jeffrey Allen

A. Service with Urgency

- 1. The word urge here means to "call near, invite, invoke."
- 2. This is a call by Paul to his fellow believers; this is an earnest desire of his.
- 3. Have we understood the call and been invoked to worship?

B. Service to present

- 1. The word Present means "bring before, give presently, to provide."
- 2. Paul is saying an act of worship is to bring before God ourselves and the fullness of it. God wants you! He wants your mind, your will, your emotions, your body.
- 3. Paul is building a context for the next verse of what God desires us to bring before him. God doesn't just want our work but our entire being.

C. Service is Sacrifice

- 1. Sacrifice is an offering or an act of slaughter, usually in ritual form.
- 2. With worship, there is a need for sacrifice or to give up something.
- 3. Are you willing to lay down everything before God to live a life of worship?

Focus point - Here, Paul is earnestly inviting a group of people to give God their entire self through an act of sacrifice that is done by the mercy of God. This sacrifice or giving up the will is pleasing to God and is a rational service to Him. Note, in a person once submitted to Christ, the will must master the body, the body can't master the will. The body was not made to be worshiped, it was made to worship.

Note- when you present something as a sacrifice before the altar it loses its rights and its will has been bent to the altar to be consumed for the purposes of the consumer of the sacrifice (God).

D. Body Not Conformed

- 1. The word conformed here means "to fashion self-according to."
- 2. The word for World is "aion" in the Greek which means "an age." This is the system, or the way things are done. The popular culture manner of thinking that raises its eyes against God.
- 3. An important part of living a life of worship is refusing to live in agreement with the same pattern of thinking of this age.
- 4. One thing we notice is the more we conform the less we are able to worship. Conforming to the world draws away our affection towards Christ.

E. Body Transformed

- 1. The word Transformed here means "Transfigure." It is the same word used in Matthew 17 and Mark 9:2 to describe Jesus' transfiguration.
- 2. This is a supernatural transformation not just a natural process of changed thinking. Only God can do it through His transformation power. 2 Corinthians 3:18-.
- 3. The word Renewing is "renovation," God what's to give our mind a complete makeover. Build it new for the ground up.

F. Body of Proof

- 1. The word Prove here means, "to test, examine, scrutinize, deem worthy."
- 2. The idea here is to see whether a thing is genuine or not.
- 3. Once a mind has been transformed by the power of God through the Holy Spirit, we can begin to genuinely see the desires and pleasures of God as beneficial, pleasing, good, and perfect.