

A Body of Worship

Romans 12:1-2

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History and Culture

Author- Paul the Apostle

Audience – Gentile Christians in Rome

Date of Writing: The Book of Romans was likely written A.D. 56-58.

Historical Background

The Roman church was a group that had a large Jewish element, but was also filled with Gentile converts from paganism, both free as well as slaves. How the church in Rome was started is unclear. The Roman Catholic view is that Peter founded it; another view is that Roman Christians from Pentecost in Jerusalem made their way there. But it may simply be that several Christian families or groups from Pauline churches in the East settled in Rome and grew together. According to the end of the book, there were several congregations meeting in the city. At the outbreak of Neronian persecutions, Tacitus says that the Christians in Rome were “an immense multitude.

Chapter 11 ends with Paul marveling at God’s wisdom and sovereignty—how He uses both Israel’s disobedience and Gentile inclusion to bring about His redemptive purposes—leading to a doxology: “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen” (Romans 11:36).

Being a Christian is not about holding opinions but about your devotion to God which moves to life change and dependency on him.

Worship- The word worship means - (divine) service; this is unto God.

A. Worship (service unto God) with Urgency

1. The word urge or here means to “call near, invite, invoke” invoke in English means to call with earnest desire.) Like Paul is begging
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 have we been invoked to worship?

B. Worship (service unto God) to present (scriptures about present yourself to.

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.

1. Living Sacrifice (service unto God) is Sacrifice is an offering or an act of slaughter usually in ritual form.
2. Sacrifice meant giving up something valuable entirely to God
3. With worship there is a need for sacrifice.
4. 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 to God their bodies 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. An important note is that once a persons is 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 alter it loses its rights and its will has been bent to the alter to be consumed for the purposes of the consumer of the sacrifice (God).

But there is something we allow to block our worship! It’s called the world.

C. Body (Mind will and emotions) 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 ways 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 agreeance 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.

So, in order to think different, we must renew our minds.

D. Body (Mind will and emotions) 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.

E. Body (Mind will and emotions) 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 is beneficial, pleasing, good, and perfect.

F. The Will of God

1. Will means wishes or desires.
2. The mind once renewed and committed to worship can now begin to understand what God chooses to reveal as his will or desire. So much that the will of the renewed mind starts to align with God’s will. Even when we don’t understand God’s Will but choose to yet trust in him.

3. Paul here explains how to live out the will of God:

- Keep in mind the rich mercy of God to you – past, present, and future (by the mercies of God).
- As an act of intelligent worship, decide to yield your entire self to Him (present your bodies a living sacrifice).
- Resist conformity to the thoughts and actions of this world (do not be conformed).
- By focus on God’s word and fellowship with Him (be transformed by the renewing of your mind).

ii. Then, your life will be in the will of God. Your life will prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

iii. You may know what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is, but you can’t prove it in your life apart from the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. (Enduring Word Commentary)

4. Simply put... The will of God is what's good, acceptable and perfect. But in order for you to see and know God's Will. You can no longer think like the World but must have a renewed way of thinking, once you have a new way of thinking you can give yourself up as a living sacrifice, and as a living sacrifice is when I truly can give yourself in full worship. As I live a life of Worship then I can truly know and live in God's will which is good, which is acceptable, and which is perfect.