

WHY WE BELIEVE...

ROMANS 12:1-2

January 14, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

All of our ordinary life is to be worship to God: this includes sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking-around-life. Which of these is the easiest for you to see as worship? hardest?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Throughout 2024, we are going to periodically cover sermons entitled, "**Why We Believe...**" Our hope is that this series will be thought-provoking as we do a deep dive into the core tenets of our faith as found in Scripture. In each of these sermons, we will address topics that the church is facing. Then we will examine these topics through the lens of Scripture - fostering a deeper understanding of how **our faith** shapes **our responses** to the challenges of the modern world.

Today, we are going to discuss why our morality should not be shaped by the world/ by culture. The Scripture we will use is **Romans 12:1-2**. In these two verses, we are introduced to a call to be transformed by God and not by the culture around us. For the Christian, all of life is to be lived as an act of worship in obedience to God. The primary ways we live out **Romans 12:1-2** is through the use of our spiritual gifts [**Romans 12:3-8**], and through acts of love [**vss 9-16**]. If a Christian is living according to the world - not obeying **Romans 12:3-16** -then the problem of a polluted heart/ mind arises. "A polluted mind will lead to a polluted life; but a mind filled with gospel truth and eschatological hope will lead to a life dedicated to God in worship." [Tony Merida, *Christ-centered Exposition- Romans*, 198]

Have someone in your group read **Romans 12:1-2**.

Question 1: Tim Keller said that **Romans 12:1-2** is Paul's summary of the Christian life. What do you think Keller meant by that?

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Question 2: What is the **main thing** Paul urges Christians to do in **Romans 12:1-2**?

Question 3: In **verse 1**, Paul uses the word "**Therefore**" in reference to the "mercies of God." In your opinion, is "**therefore**" a context clue to look at the last few verses of **chapter 11** OR Paul's description of God's redemption in **chapters 1-11** of **Romans**? [*all of previous chapters - chapter 12 is a transition from theology to application.*]

- What are some of the "**mercies of God**" referred to in Romans:
 - **3:24**
 - **4:5,7-8**
 - **5:1-2,8**
 - **8:1, 15-18, 38-39**

Question 4: In [Romans 12:1](#), on what basis does Paul urge Christians to present ourselves to God?

- What is a “living sacrifice”?
- How does that resonate with you? What do you think that might look like?

Quote: Discuss this quote by RC Sproul regarding a “living sacrifice.”

My life is to be set apart and consecrated to God. That is what is acceptable to Him; that is what delights Him; that is what pleases Him; that is the appropriate response to Him and for Him.

Question 5: Do you agree with this quote by RC Sproul?

- Is this an accurate description of the church? *of your life?*
- Is this an accurate description of your worship toward God? What is the difference between attending worship and living in worship?

Question 6: In [verse 2](#), Paul describes how we are to live dedicated to God. What does this verse tell us NOT to do?

- How does this verse connect with [Romans 1:25](#) - i.e. *what is the practice of the world?* What does the world worship?

Question 7: What are some ways that the church/ Christians are shaped by the world?

- What priorities, values and perspectives does the world have that is not of God?

Question 8: What does it mean to be “transformed by the renewing of your mind”?

- Why is it important to have a new mind?
- What are practical ways for the Christian to renew their mind?
- How does the “renewing of our minds” connect with [Proverbs 4:12](#)?

Question 9: What does [Romans 12:2](#) say will be the result of us dedicating our life to God by living according to our [biblically] renewed mind?

BEGIN

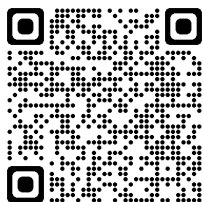
Response and Prayer

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: [Romans 12:1-2](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: [Romans 12:1-2](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

