

**ROMANS SERIES TWENTY**  
**THE ONLY LOGICAL THING TO DO**  
**Dr. Roger Barrier**  
**Romans 12:1-2; Romans 6:3-4**

BLACKBOARD: As we study the Bible we see three interlocking elements of truth.

Beliefs: Romans 1-11

Behaviors: Romans 12-13:

Relationships: Romans 14-16

Beliefs + Behaviors = Great relationships

If beliefs and behaviors do not lead to deeper relationships, some thing is wrong with our beliefs or behaviors.

We have finished the doctrinal section: the explanation of the gospel we believe.

How we translate Beliefs into proper behaviors and relationships hinges around Romans 12:1-2.

SLIDE: *Romans 12:1-2: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

SLIDE: After Considering All Of God's Mercies To Us, Offering Up Our Bodies As Living Sacrifices Is The Only Logical Thing To Do.

*Your spiritual act of worship*: Explain logikos laetros

Λογικη The only logical thing to do.

Λατρεια Technical term for offering sacrifices—also means action, duty

Illustrate this on a little more familiar terms:

Dr. Ewy and I have been friends for 25 years. He is my heart doctor. Used to try to hook up one of his sons with one of my daughters.

Recently, I had helped out one of his sons in the context of a pastoral setting and he sent me a rather large check to show his gratitude.

I opened the envelope and out of the thank you note fell this check. I said to Julie, "Look at this!"

Julie said: "You're not going to keep it are you?"

I looked at the check: Learned that it is good to give; wouldn't want to take the blessing of giving away from Dr. Ewy. Held it in my hand—thought for a long moment—finally said to Julie: "Why, of course not."

I have had heart problem since I was a child: Arrhythmias, etc. He has always cared for me.

Old site, arrhythmia problem after third service, one more to go. About to faint. Stairs, got to my office and called Dr. Ewy at home: "Wait there, I will be right there. Drove me to the hospital.

Two years ago: arrhythmias; working on treatment: Atrial flutter, not doing well. Pick up dog poop and can't lift it over top of can.

Sunday morning: shaving, hit the floor, Let's go the hospital. "Ambulance?" "No, just get me to Gordon."

Called Gordon: I will meet you at emergency entrance:

Emergency room: ventricles run-away-pace: "Shock him."

"No we have time. Put him to sleep. Paddle on back.

Next thing I knew, I was awake. “Did it work?” First time!”

Next day: “Did I jump three inches off the table like they do on tv?”

“No...out cold...sat straight up in bed, grabbed your chest and yelled, “OWW,” and passed back out.” Ride the lightning.

So, I am holding the check.... “No, of course I am not going to keep it. How could I take anything from the man who saved my life?”

SLIDE: *Romans 12:1: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is the only logical response to the man who saved your life.*

SLIDE: Doing What Jesus Did Is The Only Reasonable Thing To Do.

What did Jesus do? He sacrificed His life for others.

GALATIANS 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

SLIDE: Set up Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe: children’s allegories of the Christian life. Peter, Susan, Edward and Lucy go through the wardrobe into the land of Narnia. Ice Queen Witch reigns: Cold and dark with sin. The Sons and daughters of Adam will break the curse. Aslan, the Lion is Christ: Edward betrays Aslan to the Witch. According to the curse, the son of Adam must die on the stone table: Aslan makes a deal to die in Edward’s place.

Watch Christ die.

VIDEO: ASLAN’S DEATH

*ROMANS 6:1-3: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*

SLIDE: Offering Our Bodies To Christ Is The Most Strategic Thing We Christians Can Do.

Lord, surely you don’t want my body!

Look at your body. How many of you look at your body and really like what you see?

Has old nature, source of temptation, weak and wobbly, has B.O. I have trouble with my body – Don’t you want my soul, my spirit – I worship you great in my spirit.”

No, God wants our body.

God needs bodies through which He expresses Himself – Christ came to Earth, “A body thou hast prepared for me.” He lives in bodies, not in sanctuaries. “A Living Sacrifice”.

BLACKBOARD: We believers can live on of three different levels:

The SENSUAL (soma) simply means that we are ruled by the senses.

5 senses: smell, taste, touch, sight, hearing

“I’d like to go on a lightning trip to help build that orphanage in Mexico next weekend, but it is so hot.”

“I see that homeless person in the grocery store. She obviously has some money to spend, it looks like she needs some help. I really want to help, but she looks so dirty. That kind of freaks me out.”

SOULISH (psyche) dominated by intellect, will and emotions

Mind: Intellect: A person may give himself over to the intellectual pursuits of Christianity. Studies his Bible, becomes a walking encyclopedia. People admire and respect his grasp of truth—but it is all intellectual. It is not spiritual.

Emotions: Weeps at Lord’s Supper as thinks Calvary. Gets all excited in worship and shouts his hallelujahs! So deeply moved at the thought of orphans in Korea that he will empty his billfold into the offering plate when the appeal is made. He is not necessarily spiritual. Any nonXn can do that.

Will: Prays for God to help him overcome smoking. He immediately throws his cigarettes into the fire and never smokes again. This may not be a spiritual victory, it may simply be the manifestation of an iron will.

It is possible to appear to be spiritual when in fact all of our behaviors are directly empowered by our mind, will and/or emotions. This is a very subtle trap.

SLIDE: The spiritual life means that God the essence of the body is offered to Christ as a sacrifice.

When the Holy Spirit has complete control over the body—the 5 senses and the intellect, will and emotions—then we are able to fully express the beauties of the Lord Jesus in every way.

Where do I get the power to do this?

SLIDE: Bodies Presented In Sacrifice To Jesus Will Be Living, Holy And Acceptable.

The OT sacrifices were dead. We are living sacrifices.  
The life comes from our resurrection with Christ.

*ROMANS 6:3-4: Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

SLIDE: Set up Aslan’s resurrection and the breaking of the stone table.

VIDEO: ASLAN’S RESURRECTION.

This is the picture symbol of Baptism.

BLACKBOARD: Explain the death, burial and resurrection picture of Baptism as it relates to our new life.

Because of the resurrected power of Christ, we have the power to fulfill verse 2.

*SLIDE: Romans 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

SLIDE: Transformation occurs by refusing to be conformed and by constantly renewing the human mind.

TRANSFORMED is μεταμορφοομαι– changed into a new creature.

This term occurs only three other places in the Bible.

It is used to describe the transfiguration of Christ (Mark 17:2 and Mark 9:2).

It is used to describe the glorious change in the face of a believer when he or she gazes steadfastly into the face of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Holy Spirit wants to etch the likeness of the Lord Jesus into our characters so that it might be reflected to some degree into our faces.

SLIDE: Transformation occurs by refusing to be conformed to a society that does not know Christ.

The world is society with God left out.

The world has its fads and fashions and dress and diets are not the issue. The issue is the far more serious areas of life like morals, standards, ethics and religious beliefs.

Marriage values in our society: No commitment. Marriage has a low value in our culture. Divorce rate highest in world.

One man and one woman for one lifetime.

Lost foundation of family. Insecurity for children.

If we are not careful we can begin to conform to the world's morals and values.

Conformed is putting on a costume that is not who we really are within.

Wilbur the Wildcat is a wildcat but he isn't a wildcat. He is a student dressed up like a wildcat. He had this funny thing on his face and that nose that stuck out, a long tail. He was dancing all around the field. He was being conformed to the image of a wildcat. He wasn't a wildcat.

When we wrap around ourselves the things that characterize the world system, we're conforming. Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold.

SLIDE: Transformed by constantly renewing your mind.

Renew your mind so that you see life the way God sees it. This is a continuing choice.

Some people I know are so better off financially than I am. House, Car, Clothes, pool; This is just not fair. I will renew my mind and choose to let go of my jealousy.

When somebody hurts or betrays me, I cut off the relationship or scheme until I find just the right setting to get even.

How can I live like this anymore? I will forgive them and pray for them. No longer will I repay evil for evil.

Mostly I just trade out. When people do nice things for me, I do nice things for them.

Maybe it is time that I did some things for people who could never ever repay me in any possible way.

Before I was a Christian, life was all about me. I was the most important person I knew.  
I will renew my mind by rethinking that. God is first, others are second, I am third.

I do not know how God wants to use me in His Body. It really doesn't matter much anyway.  
I am rethinking my role as a Christian. I intend to discover my spiritual gift and use it.

People think I love them. But I only use them for what I can get out of them.  
Oh, God, please forgive me.

I am so angry with God. My life has not turned out the way I wanted—marriage is sour, children in pain, job  
is a dead-end street—health problems so unfair.  
God has a plan for my life. He wants to partner with me—and pick up the pieces and start over.

SLIDE: “In Simple Terms How Can I Let This Happen In My Life?” Practice! Practice! Practice!

Obey the command: *offer your bodies as living sacrifices.*

Captain was sharing that one of the biggest problems in training United States soldiers was to get them  
conditioned well enough so that they would shoot an enemy without thinking about it.  
“I’ve seen more than one American soldier killed in the field because when he met the enemy he had to  
decide all over again whether or not to shoot while the enemy soldier had already made that decision  
long ago. While the American was deciding, he was shot.”

You know why so many of us keep falling into sin – because every time we face a temptation we have to  
decide all over again whether or not to do it.

We ought to say once and for all, “I decide that my body belongs to the Lord and it will glorify God.”

Some folks have to decide all over again every Saturday night whether or not they are going to church. If one  
of your children comes to you and says, “Dad, are we going to church?” Then you’ve failed somewhere.  
That is a decision that ought to be made once and for all. “Every Sunday for the rest of our lives, we’re  
going to be in church.”

What temptations do you face? Have you made a once for all decision that they no longer are a part of your  
life? Or, are you still trying to decide?

Selfishness, Jealousy, Lust, pornography, bitterness, materialism, laziness, greed, anger, abusive speech,  
physical or sexual abuse, foul mouth, smoking, drug abuse?

Offer it once and for all to Jesus, never to be taken back, signing the death certificate to the Lord Jesus  
Christ. “Lord Jesus, my body is yours. I give it to you once and for all – even the right to take it back.”

I have decided that it is not usually that easy. Paul knew that.

That is why these two commands are in present tense – Keep on doing them daily.

Keep on stop being conformed.  
Keep on being transformed by renewing your mind.

Complications: best doctors are those who have performed the operation the most.

Spiritual journey pacing

SLIDE: *Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

God's will is good.

God's will is pleasing.

God's will is perfect (Teleios). Do what we were created to do.

SLIDE: Lion, Witch and Wardrobe ends with a coronation: biblically based, those who move on to glorification—overcomers—will receive a new name: sit on the throne.

VIDEO: ASLAN'S THRONE

So, I am holding the check..... “No, of course I am not going to keep it. How could I take anything from the man who saved my life?”

SLIDE: In light of His mercy, how could I not offer my body as a living sacrifice to Jesus Christ.