

## New Faith Church

### Bible Study Series

#### “Not A Fan: The Disciples Directive”

Romans 12:1-2.

Handout/ Part 4

Presented by Rev. Dr. Andre Lewis

#### **I. Disciples Are Called To Live A Life of Devotion.**

A. **Verse 1 says:** *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.”;*

1. The key word is the term “**present.**”
2. It is a technical temple term for offering a sacrifice to God.
3. **The idea here is of total surrender to God.**
4. Another thing to notice is that the word “**present**” is in a tense that suggests a once and for all time action;
5. Read what Jesus says, in **Luke 9:61-62:**
6. **Notice the phrase “*therefore by the mercies of God.*”;**
7. We may ask why God would think that He can control every aspect of our lives.
8. We are supposed to be subject to His commands, regardless of what they are!
9. And, may it also teach us that we do not have the right to say anything but “**Yes, Lord. Here am I, send me!**” (Isaiah 6)...;
10. Paul says, “**Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.**”;
11. In response to God’s mercies, Paul challenges us “*to present*” (paristemi) our bodies.
12. This is an appeal to those who have been set free by **grace** to live under **grace** by presenting all that they are to God;
13. **The evidence of presenting is that our “Beliefs” should impact “Behavior....”**
14. We are to be both *priest* and *sacrifice*. And we are to offer God our bodies ;
15. **Romans 1:24** says: *“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves.”;*
16. **Romans 6:13** say: *“Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”;*
17. The picture here is from the Old Testament sacrificial system;
18. There were two kinds of sacrifices: one for atonement and one for thanksgiving.
19. **This is the difference Jesus makes.**

#### **B. Disciples Must Be A Living Sacrifice.**

1. The words “*living,*” “*holy,*” and “*acceptable*” all follow the noun “*sacrifice.*”;
2. **He wants a living sacrifice.**
3. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his son on Mt. Moriah;
4. **Moreover, this is what Jesus did;**

5. He wants the sacrifice to be **Holy**: We are to be wholly dedicated, “*set apart*” from the world and belonging to God.
1. Our Sacrifice must be (3) **Acceptable**:
2. Acceptable Sacrifices are those that are done with the right spirit

## II. Disciples Live A Life of Worship

A. **Verse 1 says:** *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”*;

1. This phrase “*spiritual worship*” is notoriously difficult to translate.
2. The word “*spiritual*” can also be translated “**reasonable**” or “**logical**.”;
3. **The life of devotion must be reasonable.**
4. **The life of devotion is logical.**
5. After all, this is the only logical response!
  - A response of sacrificial worship expresses a heart of gratitude. It puts feet to our faith.

## B. Religious rituals do not impress God....

1. God wants a personal and complete devotion;
2. The Bible commands us to gather for public and corporate worship.
3. **True worship is not an event. It is a lifestyle.**
4. Hebrews 13:15-16 says: *“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”* ;

## III. The Directive of Disciples Calls for Transformed Thinking.

### A. Disciples Must Have A Renewed Mind.

1. Verse 2 says: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”*;
2. This verse firmly refutes any view of Christianity that rejects, neglects, or bypasses the mind;
3. **This process of renewing your mind is TWO-FOLD.**

### B. Disciples Do Not Conform To This World.

1. **Verse 2 says:** *“Do not be conformed to this world.”*;
2. The Christian has three enemies of the soul: the flesh, the devil, and the world.
3. The “*world*” is the present age in contrast to the age to come.
4. The devil is at work in and through the world system to get you to conform... (**subtly lower your guards**)
5. The world exerts pressure on the Christian to conform;
6. But God says, *“Do not be conformed to this world.”*
7. The NIV reads: *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world.”*;
8. The word “*transformed*” translates the Greek word from which we get the term “*metamorphosis*.”
9. The word is used in **Matthew 17:2** and **Mark 9:2** for the Transfiguration of Jesus, when his divine glory shined through his human flesh.
10. **2 Corinthians 3:18** says: *“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”*;
11. But how does this spiritual transformation take place?
12. Paul says: *“be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”*

13. **Philippians 4:8** says: *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”* ;
14. The world is not a friend trying to help you have a good time.

### **C. Disciples Discern God’s Will**

1. **Verse 2** begins by explaining how to think like a Christian.
2. It ends by explaining why you should think like a Christian: *“that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* ;
3. The word translated *“testing”* was used for assaying metals.
4. You cannot test and approve the will of God until you are transformed by the renewal of your mind.
5. **We must first determine what Paul means here by the “will of God.”**;
6. In Christian circles today, the expression normally refers to the *“will of God for my life,” “the will which God has for my life.”* ;
7. **Knowing God’s will is a popular topic of discussion**;
8. The *“will of God”* to which Paul refers is described as **“good,” “perfect,”** and **“acceptable.”**;
9. From all that Paul has already taught in Romans, I believe we would have to say this: **The “will of God” is the “good” which He has purposed (Romans 8:28), which is “acceptable” to Him, and which is “perfect.”**
10. Further, the emphasis here is not so much on **“discovering”** or **“knowing”** God’s will as it is in doing God’s will or demonstrating His will.
11. The term **“prove”** not only means to prove out, to demonstrate, but to approve (see **Luke 14:19; 1 Corinthians 16:3; Ephesians 5:10; Philippians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4**);