

January 23, 2005
Shepherd's Community Church
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Romans 12:1-2

“Growing in Your Relationship with Other Believers: *Worship*”

- John 4:24; Phil. 3:3; Is. 43:6-7; Eph. 1:12
- William Temple, the renowned archbishop of Canterbury, defined **worship** as “*quickening the conscience by the holiness of God, feeding the mind with the truth of God, purging the imagination by the beauty of God, opening the heart to the love of God, and devoting the will to the purpose of God.*”
- **Worship** = ascribing _____ - _____ to someone or something; seeing someone for who they really are and giving them the honor and praise they deserve.
- Worship = knowing _____ the true God really is and then giving Him _____ He wants!

I. Who is this God that we worship? (Romans 1:1-12:1)

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God

- **Therefore** = based on what I just said to you (Rom. 1-11). This is the 4th “therefore” in the letter:
 - Rom. 3:20 = condemnation; Rom. 5:1 = justification; Rom. 8:1 = assurance of no condemnation; Rom. 12:1 = dedication
- **I urge you, brethren** = call alongside to help; counsel; exhort; encourage
- **By the mercies of God** (see Romans 1-11; cf. John 1:1, 14)

- **Those who have been _____ much _____ much...**

Matthew 13:44 (NASB95) – “*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*”

II. What kind of worship does God want from me? (Romans 12:1-2)

A. What – 12:1

Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable (well-pleasing) to God which is your spiritual service of worship

- **spiritual** = logical, reasonable; became a technical word for “worship”

- **Present your bodies**
 - **Present** = a decisive choosing at a point in time

 - **Living sacrifice** = an on-going commitment

 - **Holy** = a radical departure from the normal

 - **Acceptable to God**

B. How – 12:2

1. Negative command

And do not be conformed to this world = “Stop allowing yourselves to be molded by the influences and pressures of this present world.”

- **Conformed** =

- How does the world get into our minds / lives?

2. Positive command

But be transformed by the renewing of your mind = metamorphosis

- **Passive voice** = “Allow God to transform your mind.”

- **Imperative** = Command. Not an option. Although the Holy Spirit does this through the Word of God we are not entirely passive. We participate! Phil. 2:12f; 2 Thess. 2:13

- **Present tense** = Keep on allowing God to transform your mind! The moment we stop being transformed the world will start to conform us again.
- **Renewing of your mind** = continual refocus of the perspective of total commitment of oneself to God on the basis of His mercy.

C. Why – 12:2

So that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- **Prove** = test a metal to see how much of it is pure and then approve it is authentic
- **Good** = winsomeness, beauty, attractiveness
- **Acceptable** = well-pleasing
- **Perfect** = something that has a fulfillment of its original design (mature)
- Cf. Phil. 1:18-21; 3:8ff

CONCLUSION:

Discussion Questions:

1. What is “worship”?
2. What impact does our understanding of WHO God is have on our worship?
3. What are some wrong views that people have of God? What happens to our worship if we have these wrong views of God?
4. How many things can you find out about God’s character and attributes in Romans 1-11? What can you find specifically about His mercy toward us?
5. What kind of worship does God want from us? See Romans 12:1-2
6. Have you made a once-for-all commitment to surrender everything to the Lord (your body)? Have you found it difficult to maintain that commitment? Why?
7. How can we keep from being pressed into the world’s mold? What are some worldly things that we need to say “no” to on a regular basis?
8. How can we be transformed into the image of Jesus? What part does the Word of God play in that process? What are you doing to make sure your mind is filled with Scripture?
9. If we give ourselves to worship God 24/7, what will He do in and through us? Is that a good thing? Is that something that we desire earnestly?
10. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself as a worshiper? What steps do you need to take this week to grow as a worshiper? What can you do to stimulate others in the church to be worshipers?