

Romans

How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 12 Romans 12:1-21 Being transformed into Christ's likeness!

1. Read Romans 12:1-2. Paul is now going to give us some practical guidelines for how to live in a fallen world and grow in our relationship with God and be transformed into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. What three admonitions (one is in the negative) does Paul give in these two verses regarding, how to live the Christian life? (These admonitions have to do with our **body, mind** and **will**.)
2. What do you think it means to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God? How is this an act of worship? Is this to be done only on Sunday or every day of the week? Give some specific ways you can offer yourself to God with your body? Why do you think Paul refers to this as worship? What is your definition of worship?
3. How do you avoid being conformed to the pattern of this world (I John 2:15-17)? What is the pattern of this world? Who is behind this pattern (II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:11-12, and I Peter 5:8)?
4. How does a believer have his mind renewed? Why is the mind so important (Eph. 4:22-24; Phil. 3:19; Col. 3:2)? What will be the result of having your mind renewed (Romans 12:2)? Can we take on God's mind (I Cor. 2:10-16)? Transformation refers to a "metamorphosis!" It describes a change from within. According to Warren Wiersbe, "The world wants to change your mind, so it exerts pressure from without. But the Holy Spirit changes your mind by releasing power from within. If the world controls your thinking, you are a conformer; if God controls your thinking, you are a transformer."¹⁰ Which do you want to be?
5. Read Romans 12:3-8. With this section of scripture, Paul begins to deal with **our relationship with other believers**, the body of Christ. What should be our attitude as believers in Christ (Philippians 2:5-11)?

¹⁰ Ibid. 554.

6. What analogy does Paul use to describe the church (see verse 4). We are part of this body (the church) if we are ___ Christ (see verse 5). What does it mean to be “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:13-14)? What does God give to each of His children that He expects us to use for His glory (I Cor. 12:1-11)? What are some of these gifts?
7. Who gives these gifts to us? How should these gifts be used? (Hint: to bring glory to Whom?)
8. Read Romans 12:9-16. This section continues Paul’s instructions on relationships within the body of Christ, among believers. What should be the basis or foundation of these relationships? What do you think Paul means when he says, “Love must be sincere?” What are the characteristics of love according to I Corinthians 13?
9. In verses 9-16, Paul gives several characteristics of the Christian life. What are they? Which one do you struggle with the most?
10. Read Romans 12:17-21. This section might be entitled, “How the Christian should deal with his enemies.” How should a Christian respond to those who intend to or who have harmed us in some way? Read Matthew 5:43-48. Can you think of a time when you were treated wrongly by someone else? How did you respond? How should we respond when someone wrongs us? How did Jesus respond on the cross (Luke 23:34)?
11. Whose responsibility is it to avenge wrongs that occur in this world? See verse 19. Yet, what do we, even as Christians, often do in response to someone who wrongs us?
12. According to verse 21, what is the best way to overcome evil? Read Proverbs 15:1, 18; I Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:32; James 5:20.