

Surrendered: Our Spiritual Worship - Rom. 12:1

Introduction: What is true spirituality? What does it mean to be a Christ follower? Why do we find it hard to 'live for Christ' on a daily basis? What does God really want from me?

Illus. My summer after conversion.

Discipleship and community is the name of this series. I want to look at Romans 12 and other passages which relate to being intentional disciples. ***If our intention is to live 'on purpose, with purpose.' We need to 'one another' each other. Since our mission at Lakeview is to love God and love others we embark on this journey to explore Romans 12 and some of the one anothers. Obviously there are transferable concepts we can use with our neighbors, co-workers and community at large. If we continue to develop deep relationships in the family of God it will help us to stand firm as we grow deep and then step out into the world to shine the light of Christ.***

The impetus for this series was a suggestion at the elder team meeting to look at the one anothers of the NT. ***There are 59 "one another" statements in the New Testament. That's just under 60 exhortations in scripture to actually "do" something towards another person. So over the 10 weeks we be discussing discipleship, the 'one anothers' and related concepts.***

Andy Stanley has said, "The primary activity of the church was one-anothering one another."

Romans as context -

Romans 12 is a particularly rich and dense passage on being a disciple and has several key one anothers. So we will start at the beginning of this passage.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL (1-11)			
Romans 1-3	Romans 4-5	Romans 6-8	Romans 9-11
Sin Defined	Salvation Described	Sanctification Explained	Unbelief And Grace
Mankind's Predicament	God's Solution	God's Provision	God's Faithfulness

1. ***Committed Christ Follower – Determined Disciple (12:1)***
2. ***Renewing My Mind – Transforming My Mission (12:2)***
3. ***Members of One Another – In This Together (12:3-5)***
4. ***Gifts, Grace and Community (12:6-8)***
5. ***An Authentic, Fervent and Hopeful Community (12:9-13)***
6. ***Overcoming Evil With Good in the Community (12:14-21)***

Theme: ***As a new creation in Christ we are urged to be a holy, God pleasing, 24/7/365 Christian.***

1. ***Your spiritual act of worship (Rom. 12:1, NIV)***

- a) **Appeal** – “Therefore, I urge you...” or better yet I exhort you, spoken with authority. Perhaps both urging and authority.
- b) **Basis** – *God’s mercy or compassion, lit. ‘the mercies of God’ – the entirety of his salvific work in and towards us; ours is to be a response of gratitude; we are indebted to our Savior because of his mercy.*
- c) **Action** – *to offer or present our bodies, our self; the totality of who we are; by emphasizing the physical we cannot think of our worship as inward, it must be expressed outwardly*
“No worship is pleasing to God which is purely inward, abstract and mystical; it must express itself in concrete acts of service performed by our bodies. Similarly, authentic Christian discipleship will include both the negative ‘mortification’ of our body’s misdeeds (8:13) and the positive ‘presentation’ of its members to God.” John Stott, Romans, p. 322.
- d) **Purpose** – *as a sacrifice*
 - i. *Living – in the newness of life in Christ*
 - ii. *Holy – set apart for God’s service; which implies living in holiness*
 - iii. *Pleasing to God – an acceptable sacrifice, which pleases God in what it does.*
- e) **Reason** – ‘this is your spiritual act of worship’; ‘it is only logical’, lit. reasonable but better is spiritual.
“The continuous offering of our whole selves in all our concrete living is our ‘logical’ action of worship... True worship which God desires embraces the whole of the Christian’s life from day to day.” CEB Cranfield, Romans vol.2, p.601.

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ **For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.** ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? **Matthew 16:24-26 (NIV)**

“It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.” - Mark Twain

2. Total commitment

- a. *What does God really want from you?*
 - i. *Bonhoeffer – The Cost of Discipleship I did not want to read this in seminary.*
 - ii. *Total commitment – Everything*

“Total commitment is the alignment of one’s motives, resources, priorities, and goals to fulfill a specific mission, accomplish a specific task or follow a specific person.” Chip Ingram, *Living on the Edge*, p. 18

- iii. *A 24/7/365 Christian – living every day in the sacred of the mundane*
- b. *Why is so hard to surrender to God?*
 - i. *‘Jesus Freak’ – people pleaser*
 - ii. *Control freak – lack of trust; a warped view of God*
 - iii. *It’s not about what you lose but about what you gain.*

- c. *Do you truly believe that God has the best in mind for you?*

- i. *Yes, No, Maybe?*
- ii. *E.g. Moses - 'God wants to bless you not burn you.' He wants at use us despite ourselves, our fears and feelings of inadequacies, our flaws and our failings. God wants to bless us to be a blessing.*
- iii. *God is calling each of us to follow in the day to day; He wants the best for your family; He wants you to succeed at work; He wants you to serve Him in church and community. He wants the best for us each day.*

d. *Are you all in for Jesus? You have the winning hand. Risk and reward.*

- i. *Illus. Chip Ingram, Living on the Edge, p. 9-10*

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. **Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)**

ii. *Surrender is the key to true discipleship or spirituality. - John 12:24-25*

²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **John 12:24-25 (NIV)**

iii. *Jesus modelled surrendering everything – Phil 2:6-7*

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV)**

iv. *Jesus' life on earth was one of surrendering to God's will. – John 5:30; Matt. 26:39*

³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. **John 5:30 (NIV)**

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." **Matthew 26:39 (NIV)**

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **Romans 12:1 (NLT)**

Summary: Surrendered: Our Spiritual Worship

❖ ***As a new creation in Christ I am urged to offer myself to God; a holy, God pleasing, 24/7/365 Christian.***

1. ***Committed Christ Follower – Determined Disciple (12:1)***
2. ***Renewing My Mind – Transforming My Mission (12:2)***
3. ***Members of One Another – In This Together (12:3-5)***
4. ***Gifts, Grace and Community (12:6-8)***
5. ***An Authentic, Fervent and Hopeful Community (12:9-13)***
6. ***Overcoming Evil With Good in the Community (12:14-21)***

Application: Surrendered: Our Spiritual Worship

❖ *Are you all in for Jesus? Are you willing to lose your life so that you will find the life that Jesus has for you?*