

March 6, 2022

## **The Way**

Pastor David Uth

### **Passage: Romans 12:1-2**

*1I 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. 2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

### **Background**

Today we launch a new series, *The Way*, looking to Romans 12 and Paul's practical instructions for following Jesus. While the letter to the church at Rome is by far Paul's most robust theological letter in the New Testament, the final few chapters offer clear ways for living out one's faith on a day-to-day basis. Pastor David will help us see that the root of any life change begins with our willingness to surrender to God's work within us. In the opening verses of the chapter, Paul reminds his audience that faith in action means living a life surrendered to God and transformed by His Word and His Spirit. And, as Paul clearly shares, the only reason our lives can ever be changed is because of the extraordinary mercy, love, and grace given to us through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus!

### **Service Notes**

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## Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

## Getting Started

- In what ways did you seek to cultivate and or one of your spiritual gifts this last week? What are you looking forward to the most this month? How can we pray for you?

## Talk it Over

- **Read Romans 12:1.** Paul’s appeal to present yourself as a “living sacrifice” is based on what? What are some ways God has demonstrated His mercy to us according to Scripture (see: Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 5:6-11; 6:20-23; Rom 8:1, 31-39)? How should remembering God’s mercies influence our obedience? What is one aspect of God’s mercy or one verse showing God’s grace towards us that you could reflect upon this week? In what ways did Paul model *being* a “living sacrifice” in his own life? What can we learn from his example?
- **Read Romans 12:2.** Paul challenges us to be shaped from the inside (transformed) rather than from the outside (conformed). How does this happen in our lives according to Paul? What are the practical ways someone can “renew” their mind? What are some of your daily practices to help you “renew” your mind? What role does Scripture play in this process? How does the Holy Spirit help us in our “transformation”? What is the result of a “renewed” mind and a transformed life? How does a “renewed” mind help us know/do God’s will? Can we truly be “transformed” without first offering ourselves to God as a “living sacrifice”? Why or why not? What role can other people play in this whole process?
- The idea of becoming a living sacrifice is all about surrender – giving ourselves to God completely because He loves us fully, knows what’s best, and deserves our obedience. What area of your life are you tempted to “take off the altar” rather than present to God right now? What is one part of your thinking that you know you need God to “renew” through His Spirit and His Word? What’s one practical step you can take this week in either of these areas?

## Live it Out

- What is one Scripture or spiritual practice you can all (as a group) focus on this week to help one another daily have your minds “renewed”?