

# A Transformed Community

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes*

*Based on the "Who God Wants Us To Be" Series of Matthew Rogers*

*08-03-2025*

## Summary of the Text

The sermon, based on Romans 12:1-2, emphasizes the call for believers to live as a transformed community through total commitment to Jesus Christ. It highlights three key actions: presenting one's body as a living sacrifice, rejecting conformity to the world's values, and allowing the Holy Spirit to renew the mind. These steps enable believers to discern and follow God's perfect will, fostering a community that reflects Christ's image through surrendered, purposeful living.

## Ice Breaker for Discussion

Share a time when you experienced a significant change or transformation in your life (e.g., a new perspective, habit, or role). How did it feel to go through that process, and what impact did it have on you?

## Point 1: Present My Body as a Living Sacrifice

**Scripture Reading:** (Assign someone) Please read Romans 12:1 aloud:

*"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship."*

### **Summary:**

This point calls for total commitment to God, described as offering ourselves as a "living sacrifice." In light of God's mercies—His rescue through Jesus' sacrifice—believers are urged to surrender their entire selves (body, mind, and will) to God. This is not a partial commitment but a logical, wholehearted response to God's grace, constituting true worship. Unlike Old Testament sacrifices that died, a living sacrifice remains alive to serve God and make Jesus known.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to you personally to offer your life as a "living sacrifice" to God? Are there areas where you struggle to fully surrender?
2. How can reflecting on God's mercies (e.g., salvation, forgiveness) motivate you to live with total commitment to Him?

## Point 2: Reject Conformity to This Age

**Scripture Reading:** (Assign someone) Please read Romans 12:2a aloud:

*“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”*

### **Summary:**

Believers are called to resist being molded by the values and behaviors of the world, such as greed, pride, or immorality, as outlined in Romans 1. Conformity to this age distorts our identity in Christ, where we are righteous, loved, and forgiven. Instead, we are to reflect Christ’s image, rejecting cultural pressures that conflict with God’s truth and living distinctly as His followers.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some modern cultural values or behaviors that you see as tempting to conform to, and how can we actively resist them?
2. How does your identity in Christ (e.g., being loved, forgiven, or adopted into God’s family) help you stand firm against worldly influences?

## Point 3: Allow the Holy Spirit to Renew My Mind

**Scripture Reading:** (Assign someone) Please read Hebrews 12:1-2a aloud:

*“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,, ”*

### **Summary:**

Transformation occurs as the Holy Spirit renews our minds, enabling us to discern God’s will. This renewal happens through familiarity with God’s Word and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s voice, as illustrated by Sherrie’s story of stepping into leadership despite doubts, guided by Scripture. A renewed mind thinks in alignment with God’s truth, equipping believers to make decisions that honor Him in every situation.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit renewing your mind through Scripture or His guidance in a specific situation?
2. What practical steps can you take to become more familiar with God’s Word and the Holy Spirit’s voice to discern His will?

## Recap of the Lesson

The lesson from Romans 12:1-2 calls us to be a transformed community by:

1. Presenting ourselves as living sacrifices, fully committed to God in response to His mercies.
2. Rejecting conformity to the world's values, choosing instead to reflect our identity in Christ.
3. Allowing the Holy Spirit to renew our minds through Scripture and His guidance, enabling us to discern God's will. Together, these actions create a community that radiates Christ's image and lives purposefully for Him.

## Challenge

This week, identify one area of your life where you are holding back from full commitment to God or where you may be conforming to worldly values. Spend time in prayer and Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit to renew your mind in that area. Take one practical step to align your actions with God's will, such as serving someone, resisting a cultural temptation, or seeking His guidance in a decision. Share your experience with the group next week.