



transformed

studies in Romans 9-16

SCPC term 4 2007

sunday 11th november 2007

study 4 transformed attitudes Romans 12:9-21

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:1-2**

Romans 11-16 is all about **transformation**. Especially it is about transformed **worship**. When we become Christians through God's mercy to us in Jesus, it is NOT that we have BECOME worshippers. We have become worshippers of the CREATOR instead of created things (see Romans 1:25). Our transformation is not from *no worship* to *worship*. Our transformation is from **wrong worship** to **right worship**. That's why true worship is **all of life**, not just part of life: we were sinning in all of life! That's why true worship is **all the time**, not just one hour in life: we were sinning in every hour of life! That's why true worship is **everywhere**, not just in some special place: we were sinning everywhere we went! So as we press on into Romans 12, keep contrasting it with Romans 1—we are being shown the reversal, the transformed worship we are called to in view of God's mercy in Jesus.

some notes on questions

Q1. See also ahead in Romans 13:8-10—love is very much the key to the whole section. Remember also the critical verses 2:28-29—by the Spirit we are able to fulfil what the law was powerless to do—we love God and our neighbour from the heart.

Q2-3. Remember from Romans 8:17-18 that the 'shape' of the Christian life is suffering (this life) then glory (next life). The great news is that we know that this suffering is not punishment from God (Christ has exhausted that completely on the cross), but loving discipline of God causing us to depend on him and cling to what is ours in Christ. No wonder Paul mentions 'hope' in the next verse! Although God's Spirit is transforming us now, it is in the context of a painful, fallen, sinful world, so hope and prayer are vital to maintaining zeal for serving God.

Q4. I'm sorry—I think that should be verse **13**. It's the great kids talk word "SHARE" and it's very foreign to the sinful nature even in grown-ups! Transformation!!

Q5. The Bible Talk contains lots of practical scenarios (I hope). Now it's your turn—try to apply these verses to some real life challenges you face in living for Christ.

Q6-8. 'Love' is a word we can feel comfortable we're probably fulfilling. Until we get practical and talk real examples. So please encourage your group to do that. Q8 about hospitality will give you an immediate opportunity to think about how to put some of this into practice as a group.

digging deeper: not only is God's mercy in Jesus our great motivation, it's also our great example.

putting it into practice: ... if you dodged the application you can't dodge this! let's keep praying for honesty before God and each other: being real and not just give safe 'out there' discussion.



remember that once the talk goes up on the website you can always post a question/observation by leaving a comment—it's easy to do and then others will also be able to see the response when it goes up and leave their thoughts too.

coming events
men's breakfast : sat 10 nov
carols at lismore high: sun 16 dec

small group bible study leaders' notes