

Romans 12:1–8 | Your Reasonable Response

Surrender and Steward

Charles Spurgeon once assessed the condition of the church in his day like this: “One reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.”

To what extent is this assessment true of the church in our day? Of Second, in particular? Of you, personally?

1. WHY | Church, God has granted and is granting you boundless mercy in Christ (12:1a).

- a. Peculiar incentives: *I appeal to you therefore*
- b. Peculiar identity: *brothers and sisters*
- c. Peculiar power: *by the mercies of God*

2. WHAT | Your only reasonable response is to devote yourself entirely to him (12:1b).

- a. Devote yourself purposefully: *to present*
- b. Devote yourself holistically, with thanks: *your bodies as a living sacrifice,*
- c. Devote yourself relationally, without end: *holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual/ reasonable worship.*

3. HOW | Devoting yourself to God means refusing to be conformed to the world and resolving to be conformed according to his Word (12:2).

- a. Resist conformity to the world, the spirit of this age (12:2a): *Do not be conformed to this world,*
- b. Receive his gift of being conformed according to his Word, by his Spirit’s transforming power to renew your mind according to his revealed, inscripturated will (12:2b): *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.*

^{8:29}For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

The precise verb for “conform” in R8:29 isn’t used in R12:2. But still ...

4. WITH WHOM | Devoting yourself to God means doing so together as Christ’s body, actively exercising and enjoying his endowments of varied grace among us (12:3–8).

- a. Exercise the grace of humility (or: Lose the self-importance) (12:3): *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*
- b. Exercise the grace of unity (or: Lose the self-centered individualism) (12:4–5): *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*
- c. Exercise the grace of your special assignment in building up his church (12:6–8): *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Church, because your heavenly Father has granted and is granting you boundless mercy in Christ, joyfully **surrender your all to him** and **steward his particular gifts to you** as the blood-bought, Spirit-transformed, grace-endowed body of Christ.