

Sept. 12, 2021 John Knox Presbyterian Church. Sermon: Our Reasonable Response.

Greeting... Remember Hank Kauppila. no car... (pray for

Scripture: Romans 12: 1-21 It almost preaches itself..re-read???

Intro: There is an expression I have heard countless times through the years....I am a sinner saved by grace. How many of you can say that? ///+ Exx I'm reminded of a certain man's prayer, Thank you Lord...I feel good. no anger ...no evil thoughts/ words ...cussed out in my heart.. or tried to avoid. So far, a perfect day. Thank you, Father,.but now it's time to get up.

(perfect start) Is any one here a perfect Christian? Is it even Possible?/// God is my Co-pilot. (Critics..exchange seats /// vs not having Jesus) Yes, we can say, I'm a sinner saved by grace, but I have discovered a better expression of my faith, I Will share with you as we go on.

We've had a Good starting point. Where do we go from here.. Rom. 12 is a short compact guide to "How to live like/as a Christian. So lets take look

1. Rom. 12 begins with an appeal. "I appeal to you, BRO & Sis to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, set apart, which is your spiritual worship"..KJV Reasonable service/ response. Then he jumps to the # 1 problem of almost all Christians in vs. 2.

2. Don't be conformed... but transformed. How.. ...by renewing your minds... that's how to discern not only the will of God , but what is good, acceptable, perfect. & also what is not This is a (challenge) for all of us to really BE Christians. It covers most of what a Christian is and does.(HOW) /////

3. What does he mean by renew our minds? (Have the mind of Christ) That should be our goal. Whoah! Reality check.///. Why is this a problem for us. How many hrs a day is my mind in world.? /// How many hours in.. God's Word? /// maybe add chores of love? This is daily battle.. armor/ Why I no longer care for being a sinner saved by grace.... time & age

4. Vs 3 gets into serving God. Prep for: We are not to think more highly than we ought. Use Sober judgment, according to the measure of faith. (Faith One of the gifts He gives us) we're All one body, but members have

different functions. Also many gifts with which to serve one another. (Gifts here.) Prophecy, Ministry, teaching, an Exhorter, the giver, the leader, the compassionate. the cheerful. Many of these we find again in 1 Cor. 12: .../ God can augment our natural gifts or talents, or He can give us brand new ones. Many are referred to as Spiritual gifts.. But all could be classed so.

5. Vs 9 Paul re-emphasizes his goal. This whole section could be titled how to live like a Christian! do you want a picture? Live like Jesus.

6. Should love have been in that list. I don't think so. Love is our choice. Our love can be augmented by the spirit.. but it is usually first of all our choice. Paul says let it be genuine. Why? Does the expression Phony Love, ring a bell for any of you. (Example..} here comes...oh-oh.

7. Better way. (IE) Lord help me yield to you or Lord help me. or J, Love him/her through me. "Jesus word By this will all know you are my disciples ---because, you love one another." Paul goes on to call it Brotherly love. vss 9 -21 is really a list of Christian virtues (Read it every day this week)

8. Hate what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with mutual affection. Out do one another show honor. When he gets to the end of the chapter he summarizes it with " Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with GOOD. "

9. At the beginning I promised to give you a better label for yourselves. Yes, we all were sinners saved by grace, but: How does God see us now? Many see God as a God who sees all our faults and yes He knows them all but, my bible says they are buried in the deepest sea. So if we are Christians, when He looks at us what does He see? He sees that I have Jesus in my heart, so, when He looks at me He sees Jesus, His beloved Son. Why? Because Jesus and the Father have made their abode in me. Therefore, my confession is one of faith, I am no longer a sinner but I AM, and remember I AM is also the Holy name. I am the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. That is how he sees me and I am not about to contradict God!!! So my new mantra, or my new confession is, I am the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

10. Why is this important? I will give you a practical application. Scripture says, we wrestle not against flesh and blood but again principalities and powers. Satan is alive and well. He loves sinners. I am

sure I am not the only one who has wrestled against favorite sins. If I confess that I am a sinner, Satan can use that against me. He points out a temptation which he knows I enjoy. I say no, not now, — but he says, now is a perfect opportunity. I say, Yah, but Jesus wants me to give up that one .

He says, It's not that bad a sin, and besides, Jesus knows you are a sinner and will forgive you. He knows its your weakness.He loves you and is quick to forgive. Surprise... Satan knows how to use religious language.

He is right, and we often fall for it, but, every time we yield to him, it makes it easier for him to win the next time. That is how we get caught in habitual sins.

So I am no longer a sinner saved by grace. My best defense is to speak God's truth- God has shown me that "I am the Righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore I want to stay in Jesus and not let Satan try to pull me away.

11. So, since Satan has an easier time stumbling sinners, I hope you leave here with a new mantra, no longer claiming to be a sinner, but putting on your spiritual armor and walking as Christ's ambassador, letting His righteousness shine through you, a child of God, and a joint heir with Jesus. The more we make this confession, the more our lives will begin to reflect the light of Jesus.

I will confess what God sees in me and what he wants to see in all of us, that I am the righteousness of God In Christ Jesus. I hope you will all join me in this new confession of faith. Lets try it together. " I Am the.....

The more we make this confession, I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, the more our lives will begin to reflect His presence in our lives. ... Don't forget to read Romans 12 a few times this week.

Father, confirm your word to the hearts of your people, In Jesus name, Amen.