

# Renewal of the mind, sacrifice and service

- **Recap**
- Up to now we have focussed on ***ideas*** and ***concepts***:
  - Righteousness
  - The Law
  - Justification
  - Sin, death and burial
  - Freedom & life in the Spirit
  - Israel
- **Hard work?**
  - Now we will get practical!



# Renewal of the mind, sacrifice and service

- We will look at Romans 12 today.
- Paul is giving us some guidelines on ***how to live***:
  - Being a living sacrifice
  - Serving each other
  - Loving all

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# Renewal of the mind

## Romans 12

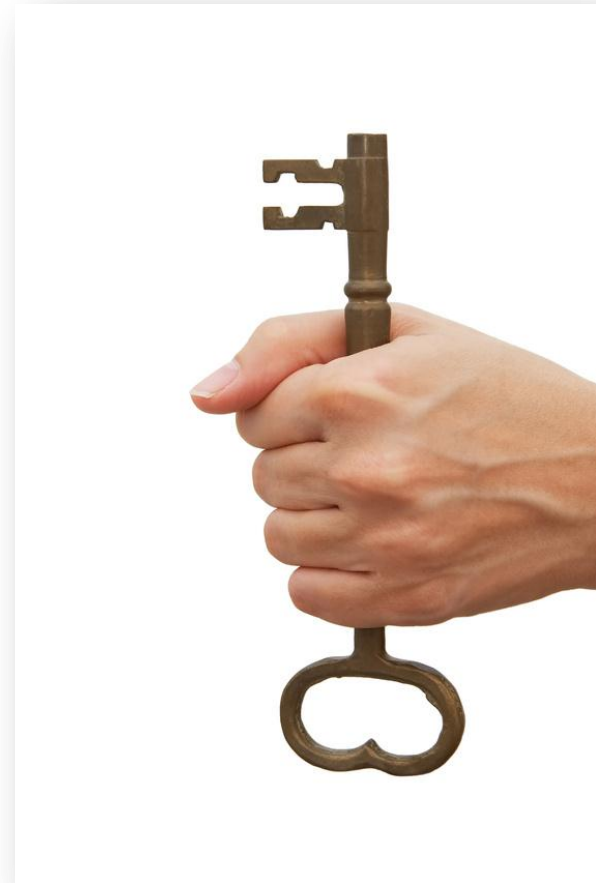
- ***A Living Sacrifice***

- Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- <sup>2</sup> Do not conform 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.

# Renewal of the mind

## Key words:

- Offer
- Be transformed
- Test
- Approve



# Renewal of the mind

## Key words:

- **Offer**
  - Come as you are now
  - Clean up your act as the Spirit speaks
  - Worship
  - *<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*
  - ***I beseech you...***



# Renewal of the mind

## Key words:

- ***Be transformed***
  - in your mind
- What do you listen to?
  - *<sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

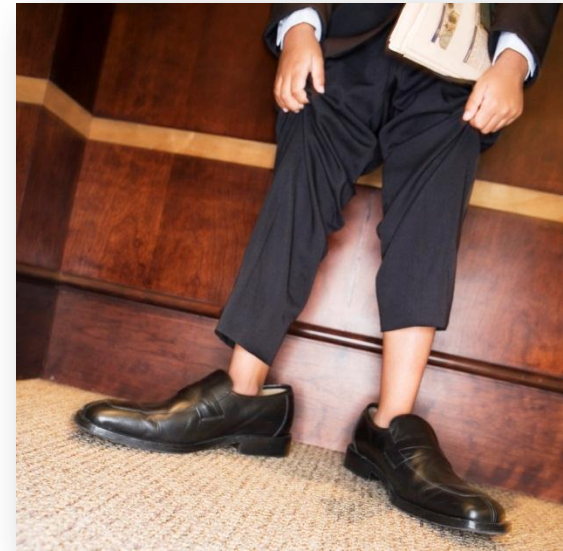




# Renewal of the mind

## Key words:

- **Test** and **approve** God's will for you
  - How?
- On-going change is normal and to be expected in a healthy believer
- We begin to understand more of the character of God
  - seen through Jesus
  - *<sup>3</sup>Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.*





# Service

## Humble Service in the Body of Christ

- <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.
- <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
- <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

# Service

- Are you the best?
- Are you the worst?
  - *<sup>3</sup>Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.*



# Service

- We are **connected** to each other
  - *<sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others*



# Service

- Each has something to offer
  - *<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.*



# Service

## Get active

- Prophesying
  - Speaking the word
- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouraging
- Giving
- Leading
- Showing mercy



# Love

## Love in Action

- <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:
  - "If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
- <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



# Conclusion

- Let the Spirit wash you, heal you, transform you
  - Daily
  - Be renewed
- So that your character becomes more like Jesus' in your journey through life



