



**Lessons in Non-Conformity
(Romans 12:1-8 ESV)**

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Body)

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**"

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Body)

- ***Contemporary culture overemphasizes humans as sexual beings and underappreciates humans as spiritual beings.***
- **Purity:** “¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- **Honor Marriage Vows:** “⁴ Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous” (Hebrews 13:4).
- **Focus on the Good:** “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8)”

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Body)

A broken ALTAR, Lord, thy servant rears,
Made of a heart, and cemented with tears;
Whose parts are as thy hand did frame;
No workman's tool hath touched the same.

.....

That, if I chance to hold my peace,
These stones to praise thee may not cease.
O let thy blessed SACRIFICE be mine,
And sanctify this ALTAR to be thine.

--George Herbert [1593-1633] "The Altar"

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Mind)

- ² Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- *Credo ut intelligam* (“I believe in order that I might understand”) Anselm of Canterbury, 11th century A.D.)

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Mind)

- ***We are to live our lives with BOTH Reason AND Revelation***
- ¹⁵ The simple believes everything,
but the prudent gives thought to his steps. (Proverbs 14:15)
- Then he [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45)

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Mind)

- ***We believe and understand what or whom we trust (ethos)***
- For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people. (Hebrews 8:10)
- ***Situations will test the extent that we are willing to believe in the Bible as truly the Word of God and our willingness to follow its instructions***
- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Humility)

- 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.

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Humility)

- ***The call to be servant leaders***
- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)
- ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (John 13:13-15)

Romans 12:3 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Humility)

- *The call to be servant followers*
- And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)
- By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8)

Romans 12:4-8 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Spiritual Gifts)

- ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,
- ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- ⁶ Having **gifts** that differ according to the **grace** given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith;
- ⁷ if **service**, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his **teaching**;
- ⁸ 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.

Gifts of the Spirit

- From Greek:
 - Charis = “grace”
 - Charisma = “gift” (singular) . . . A movement of God’s grace
 - Charismata = “gifts” (plural)
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- *Spiritual gifts exist for the building up of people and the kingdom of God*

Romans 12:4-8 (ESV)

(Non-Conformity by Means of Your Spiritual Gifts)

Prophecy	Enabled by the Holy Spirit, to speak as from God with insight and moral boldness
Service	Loving actions to meet needs of others [deacons/Trustees]
Teaching	Through study, the ability to make divine truth clear to the people of God and to apply truths received from God for the Church
Exhortation	To call someone aside to comfort, instruct, build up
Generosity	To give out of a spirit of generosity and without outward show to those in need
Leadership	Empowered by the Holy Spirit for “standing in front,” to lead by example and develop the body of Christ and the Church
Mercy	To feel empathy with the misery of another, exercised with kindness and cheerfulness

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ ***To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*** ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of **miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same ***Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.***

The End of the Matter

- We are to offer all of ourselves—our bodies, minds, humility, and spiritual gifts—back to God for the building up of His kingdom.
- A “Christ-centered life” is certainly *different* than a “culture-based lifestyle”: it is more stable, rewarding, and life-enhancing! When you accept Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life, your life is set upon the solid rock of Christ rather than pushed this way and that by the whims and fads of society.

A silhouette of two hands holding a glowing cross against a sunset background. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers slightly curled. The cross is a simple, bright white symbol that glows with a soft, golden light, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Let Us Pray