




Romans

The Overflow of God's Grace

- **Romans 1:1-15** **Introduction**
- **Romans 1:16-4:25** **Coming Under Grace**
- **Romans 5:1-8:39** **Living Under Grace**
- **Romans 9-11** **The Overflow of Grace**



Romans 12: 1-21 Living Sacrifices

February 15, 2026

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Romans 12: 1-2

¹ *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.* ² *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.*

Therefore

Because of everything Paul talked about before Ch 12

Urge

A call to action

In view of God's Mercy

In response to God's mercy

Romans 12: 1-2

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A call to action

Offer your bodies as a *living sacrifice*

What is a *living sacrifice*?

Understanding The Ritual Of Making A Sacrifice In The OT

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death”* is not a New Testament concept.

- Genesis 2:17 *“but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*
- Genesis 3:7 *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”*
- Genesis 3:21 *“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”*

Leviticus 17:11

*“For the **life** of a creature is in the **blood**, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”*

Comparison of sacrifice in the Old Testament and Romans

| Old Testament | Romans |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Animal dies | Self-rule dies |
| External Ritual | Internal transformation |
| Temporary | Continues |
| Temple Centered | Life Centered |
| Substitutionary | Responsive |
| Points forward to Christ | Flows from Christ |

Romans 12: 1-2

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,

- holy and pleasing to God—
- this is your **true and proper worship**.



Instead of death, you are surrendering:

- your body
 - your choices
 - your desires
 - your future
 - your identity
-

To Respond To And Not To Repay God's Mercy

Romans 1–11:

God shows **mercy** → removes judgment

God gives **grace** → gives righteousness & new life

Romans 12:
You give **yourself** – total surrender

Not to become accepted
But because you already are

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The result of living a life as a living sacrifice to the Lord

So that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
(NASB)

The World Always Tells Us We Need To Fit Into A Certain Mold

Some examples of Christians being the culture makers in Western civilization and their influence on other cultures:

- Education
- The concept of the inalienable right of each individual human being



But there was a time when Christians were the culture makers.

Where are Christians now with regards to cultural influence?

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness." -- Declaration of Independence as originally written by Thomas Jefferson, 1776. ME 1:29, Papers 1:315

Some Cultural Norms We Might Feel Pressured To Conform To And How It Plays Out in Real Life

1. Work
2. Parenting as Performance
3. Saving Face & Avoiding Conflict
4. Material Success as Security
5. Comparing with Others
6. Silence About Mental Health or Problems
7. Church Involvement
8. Political or Cultural Tribalism



What The Secular Culture Demands From Us?

Relativism

- The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute.
- **All religions teach the same things. Why do you Christians think only they're correct?**

Tolerance

- The willingness to accept behavior and beliefs that are different from your own, even if you disagree with or disapprove of them.
 - **Why are Christians so narrow minded and bigoted? Why can't people get married if they love each other?**
-

What The Secular Culture Demands From Us?

Relativism

- The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality are relative to a particular culture, society, or historical context, and that no standard is valid across all contexts.
- All religions are just different things. Why do you Christians think only they're correct?

Tolerance

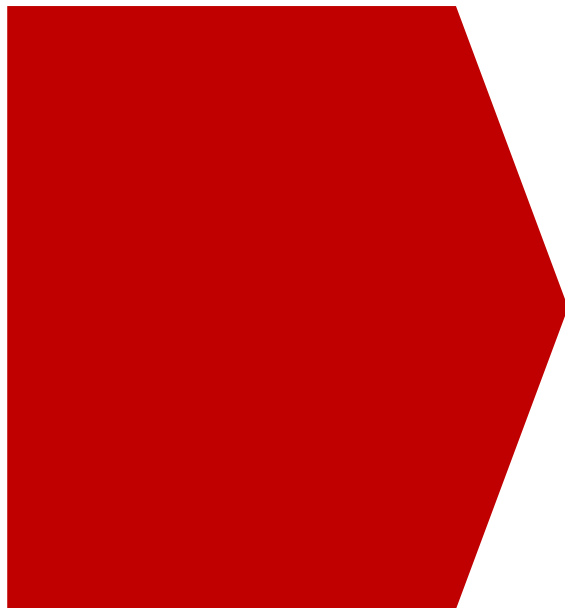
- The willingness to accept behavior or beliefs that are different from or disagree with one's own.
- Why are you so narrow minded and bigoted? Why can't people get married if they love each other?

Wokeness
Cancel Culture

Our Society Is Very Polarized, But This Is Not A New Phenomena



Issues in American history where people were very divided?



American
Revolution
Civil War
World Wars
Civil Rights
Vietnam War
Abortion
Gay Marriage





Today's Activism





Extremism





Divide Them

C.S. Lewis, in the Screwtape Letters, remind us that it is Satan's tactics to divide us. Let's not fall prey to his evil scheme.

“Small groups, especially those with niche interests, can become echo chambers of praise internally, while externally they develop a strong sense of pride and disdain. Even when these groups form for the Enemy’s [God] purposes, this still applies. The main goal is to have the Church be small, not just so fewer people know the Enemy [God], but also so those in it become as insular and self righteous as members of a secret society.” Screwtape, Letter 7

Consequences Of Being Divided Into Groups

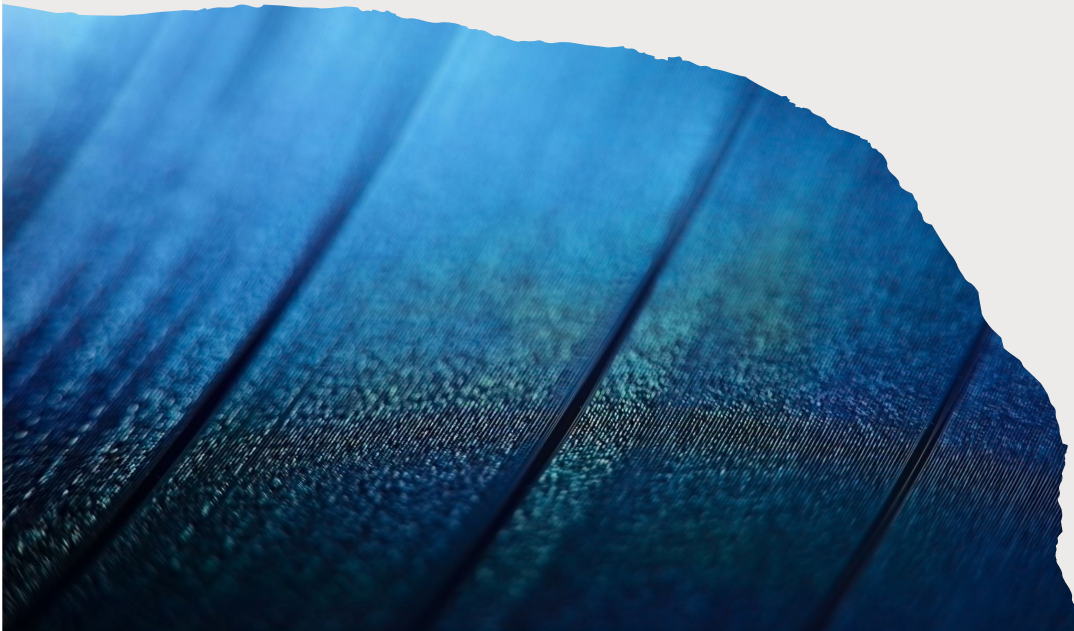
Group Think

Demonization of
Opposing Voice

Cancel Culture

Cancel Life

Extremism



What A Transformed Mind Looks Like

HUMILITY

Romans 12:3

³ 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.**

What A Transformed Mind Looks Like

FAITHFUL SERVICE

Romans 12: 4-8

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ 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; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ 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.

What A Transformed Mind Looks Like

A NEW TYPE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP

Romans 12:9-13

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

What A Transformed Mind Looks Like

A NEW TYPE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP

- Romans 12:9-10 (True Love Within The Community)
- Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Because God has shown overwhelming mercy, the believer's whole life becomes worship. We offer ourselves to God, allow our minds to be reshaped by the gospel, and then live differently — humbly serving in the church, sincerely loving fellow believers, and responding to enemies with grace instead of retaliation.

