

"Paul's Punch List for Perfect Presbyterians."

Romans 12:1-2: "I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your rational service of worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may approve the will of the Lord, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

When you see a therefore in the Bible ask yourself, "what's it _____?"

In response to all God's mercies, we are called to present ourselves to God as _____ . But not just ourselves. Paul says that we are to present our _____ as that sacrifice.

What kind of worship is this? It's not spiritual. It's _____. The _____ response to God giving Himself for us is for us to give ourselves to Him in return.

It isn't forced but it's also not a favor. It's an _____.

The core question of Romans 12:1-2 is, " _____ ?"

What is the alternative in verse ? It is to be _____.

Each generation has the _____ to deal with in a new form. What is our form?

There is no single word that perfectly describes this outlook but _____ is good place to start. Paul is saying "Don't get your ultimate meaning from the time and culture in which you live.

We need to think _____.

We need to adopt the _____ of the Kingdom.

We need to _____.

We are to be transformed by the _____ of our minds. This isn't a one-time event. It is a process.

Does it make a difference?

How does it happen?

We are in the church.

We are in the Word.

We follow the example of Jesus.

Jesus was shaped by the word of God

Jesus prayed

Jesus was connected

Jesus was regular in worship

Jesus served

What is the goal? We discover the will of God which is good and acceptable and perfect.

There is a cost. The first cost is _____ Paul hits the issue of self-evaluation head on in Romans 12:3 and 16.

^{12 3} For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith....¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly.

We can think of ourselves more _____ than we ought to think.

The solution Paul offers is not to stop thinking about ourselves entirely but instead to start thinking about ourselves in a _____.

We are to think of ourselves with _____.

We are to think _____. The key to an accurate self-appraisal is _____.

It's pretty clear what Romans 12:3 means. But it's not so easy to live -- especially when we compare ourselves to others and think we stack up well.

In verse 16 Paul says that a healthy Christian life requires that we keep our relationships properly focused. Our minds aren't to be focused on what he calls "the high things." The Greek word there for what we aren't to fixate on is *upsela* which refers to things that are _____.

Paul is talking to those who consider themselves not only believers but _____-believers.

Gnosticism 101

Gnosticism comes from the word *gnosis* which means _____.

Most of us in the church today would not call ourselves Gnostics. But we can certainly have Gnostic attitudes of _____.

God did not design the church as a high speed race. He designed the church as a _____ traveling through dangerous waters.

Verse 16 is an important teaching for us for a number of reasons.

It's easy to find good reasons not to intentionally associate ourselves with the humble -- and to be completely unaware that we are cutting people off.

It's difficult to be led away with the humble. The meaning of *sunapagomenoi*.

When Jesus turns a crowd into a community.

