

THE BELIEVER'S ATTITUDE AND WALK

ROMANS 12:1-8 • TV462B

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by

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Romans 12:1-8

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

I want you to open your Bible to **Romans Chapter 12**. We are going to go to school today. We are going to go as far as we can in Romans 12, beginning at **verse 1**. We are going to be talking about the “**BELIEVER’S WALK.**” It will be concerning the believer’s attitude, walk, conduct and conversation.

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In the first eleven Chapters Book of the Book of Romans, Paul teaches the great doctrines of grace and redemption in Christ Jesus our Lord. The first 11 Chapters has this theme: justification by grace through faith in our sovereign Lord Jesus Christ. That is what it is all about. In **Romans 5 verse 1**, it says, *“Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* In **Romans 8:1**, it says this, *“There is therefore now no condemnation, no judgment, to them who are in Christ Jesus.”*

In **Romans 3:28**, Paul said, *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith in Christ and not by works.”* So, the **first 11 Chapters of the Book of Romans**, deals with justification by grace alone, through faith in our sovereign Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, that leaves **five Chapters, 12 through 16**, and in these **five Chapters of Romans**, Paul turns to the results of justification, and the results of salvation. God saves a man or a woman by His grace, not by works, but by grace and faith in Christ Jesus. It is faith alone; works have nothing to do with the redemption of our soul. Paul makes that clear and plain in these **first 11 Chapters of Romans**.

In the next **five Chapters** he talks about the believers, the true believers in their walk and attitude in this world. You cannot separate faith and works. That is what James teaches; that is where he picks up the writings of Paul. He says, *“Faith without works is dead. If any man be in Christ; he’s a new creature. Old things pass away, behold all things become new.”* You can’t separate faith and works. The apostle James says, *“You say you have faith; show me your faith without your works; I’ll show you my faith by my works.”* The believer’s walk and the believer’s attitude, conduct and conversation are in keeping with the Spirit of his God. The scripture says, *“If any man hath not the Spirit of God, He is none of his; and out of the heart the mouth speaketh; and as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* So, this is what Paul deals with in the last **five chapters of the Book of Romans**.

There is one thing that needs to be understood at the beginning of this message as I talk to you about the believer’s attitude, the believer’s walk, the believer’s conduct and conversation. There is one thing that needs to be understood in the beginning and that is this, that good works and godliness are the results of grace, and not the cause of it. Will you remember that while I’m talking about this subject today? Remember that good works and godliness are the result of grace. Our conduct and conversation are the results of God’s grace in us and not the cause of God’s grace to us. A life of godliness, a life of holiness, and a life of faith are the fruit of salvation, and it is certainly not the root of it.

In other words, every believer loves Christ. The apostle Paul said, *“If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.”* We love Christ, but why should we love Christ? *“We love Christ because He first loved us.”* Our love for Christ is not the cause of His love for us; His love for us is the cause of our love for Him. That is what I am saying,

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godliness and good works are not the cause of God saving us, but it is the results of God saving us. *"We love Christ because He loved us."*

We have a new life; why do we have a new life? The reason is because He regenerated us. He didn't regenerate us because we had a new life; He regenerated us and gave us a new life. We have a new heart; He said, *"I will take out that stony heart and give you a heart of flesh."* A believer has a holy heart and a godly heart. What is the reason? The reason is that God gave it to him. Do you see what I am saying?

Good works are the results of God's grace in us and not the cause of it. That is the reason that it is a mistake, a serious mistake, and people are still trying to do it. It's a serious mistake to try to motivate anyone to walk with God or to serve God because of duty or to have a sense of duty. Some say it is your duty to serve God or it is your duty to fear because if you don't, He will damn you. Some do it for reward, thinking that God will give them a mansion in heaven.

You can motivate men in the Armed Forces to work so that they will be promoted. You can motivate men in a steel mill by giving them a bonus. You can also motivate people to excel at sports by giving them a trophy. The only real way to motivate a man to serve God and honor God and to glorify God is because He loves God. The apostle Paul said, *"The love of Christ constraineth me."* The only real worship and service that is pleasing to God is that which is motivated, not by duty and not out of fear or reward, but the only service and worship that is pleasing to God, is motivated by a love for God and a love for His people and a love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is what Paul wrote in **First Corinthians 13**, he says, *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I'm a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal."* He said, *"Though I have faith, so that I could remove mountains and understand mysteries and have all kind of knowledge and have not love; I am nothing. Although I give my goods to feed the poor and my body to be burned and have not love; it profiteth me nothing."* Love, this is the key.

Here is the order of this matter of service, worship and godliness. First, *"He loved us."* He said, *"I've loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you. Herein is love, not that we love God, He loved us."* He chose us; He gave His Son to redeem us. Salvation is of the Lord in its origination, in its execution, and in its application. Salvation is of the Lord in its sustaining grace and in its ultimate glory; it is of God! He loved me and I love Him because He loved me.

That is the order; first He loved me. Secondly, *"We love Him because He first loved us;"* that is what the scripture says. Apostle Peter says, *"Whom having not seen, you love; and though now you see Him not, yet you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."*

Now, thirdly, the scripture says, *"And now we love one another, by this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you love one another."* Now, if this order is established, you

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can talk about works, you can talk about true worship, you can talk about giving, you can talk about graces, you can talk about godliness, and you can talk about walking before men for the glory of God.

The scripture says, *“He loved us; we love Him because He first loved us and we love one another because He has shed abroad His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. I am what I am by the grace of God.”* If there is any godliness in me, it is His godliness. If there is any righteousness about me, it is His righteousness. If there is any goodness revealed through me; it is His goodness. He said, *“I made you beautiful in my comeliness,”* not in yours. You do not get any glory. *“Who made you to differ?”* Who made the difference between you and everyone else? The answer is that God did. We have no right to glory as if He didn't give it to us freely by His grace.

All right, in **Romans Chapter 12**, Paul deals in this chapter, after establishing what I just said, he deals with the attitude and the walk of these people in whom God has visited in mercy and called by His grace. They are redeemed in the blood and righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you to look at **verse one**, take your Bible and look at it. The scripture says, *“Now, I beseech you, (I appeal to you, not the world, but the brethren and believers, and to those who have been redeemed) therefore, (because of what I have been teaching in the first 11 chapters), I beseech you brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God.”*

What are we called upon to do? We are to *“Present our bodies a living sacrifice to God.”* What is the basis? It's because of God's mercy to us. *“I beseech you therefore brethren, (when you consider God's mercy to you and God's grace and love to you) that you present your bodies to Him as a living sacrifice, which is your reasonable service.”*

What we are called upon to say or do or give is not by a way of threats or fear or reward, but it is because of the mercy of God. God says, *“Be ye merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful.”* The scripture says, *“Give as you have freely received. As you freely receive, freely give. Be ye kind, one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

We should be motivated by mercy, (His mercy). The Word says, *“I beseech you, (I appeal to you) therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice.”* He's talking about these bodies; (talking about ourselves). Let my tongue be used to praise Him; let my tongue be used to speak forth His glory; let my tongue be used to speak good things in His name. Let my hands reach out to help His people; let my arms reach out to embrace the fallen. Let my feet take me to the house of God, to the home of the old, the sick and the needy; let my feet walk in paths of righteousness and godliness for the glory of my Lord. Let my mind and affection be set on things above; *“Present your bodies a living sacrifice,”* not waiting until I am dead and having people say, “Well, he's

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with the Lord.” No, it should be while I am still living and while I am still walking, and while I am still on this earth, we should present our bodies to God.

I read about a missionary who was preaching many years ago out in the western part of our country. He was preaching to the Indians. This was a long time ago before the turn of the century, around the 1800's. The old Indian Chief was greatly impressed by the gospel that was being preached by the missionary, the gospel of God's grace in Christ Jesus. He was preaching the gospel of God's love and mercy in the Redeemer.

One night after the service, the missionary was sitting in a tent that was provided for him by the Indians. There was a candle burning and he was sitting and reading in the tent and the flap of the tent rose up and the Chief came in. The Chief had in his hand a bow and arrow. He laid it on the floor in front of the missionary and said, “Missionary, Chief give his bow and arrow to Jesus.” The missionary thought, “He's missed my message; he's missed it entirely.” The missionary didn't want to offend him, he knew he was sincere and that the bow and arrow was very important to him and he was giving it to the Lord. The missionary thought, “He hasn't understood the gospel yet.” He said to the Indian Chief, I appreciate your sincerity, I appreciate your generosity, but our Lord Jesus does not want your bow and arrow.” The Chief said, “Jesus doesn't want my bow and arrow?” He picked it up and went out of the tent. The Missionary thought he would never see him again.

In just a few moments, the Chief came back and he brought his moccasins. They were hand-woven deerskin, with beads on them. It was one the Chief's prize possession. He said, “Missionary, Jesus doesn't want my bow and arrow, Chief bring his moccasins.” The missionary said the same thing, “Chief, the Lord Jesus doesn't want your moccasins.” “Jesus Christ doesn't want my moccasins?” He picked them up and out of the tent he went.

In a few moments, he came back and this time he had his headdress. Each one of the feathers signified something in his life, some victory, trophy or battle. He took off the headdress and laid it down and said; “The Chief gave his headdress to Jesus.” (He thought it was the best he had). The missionary said, “Chief, the Lord Jesus has no use for your headdress.” He took it up and out he went again. Many minutes passed by, a really good while. Finally, the Chief came in and knelt on his knees in front of the missionary and said, “Missionary, Chief give himself to Jesus.” The missionary said, “Chief, that is it! *“I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, (by the grace of God and by the work of Christ), freely you have received and freely given; present your bodies a living sacrifice to the Lord Jesus Christ which is your reasonable service.”*

I'm not my own, I am bought with a price. I belong to Christ. These things are not mine; they are His. What I have is not mine; it is His. I'm His bond slave; I'm His servant. What I have, He gave me; it is His. David, when he prayed over in **First Chronicles 29**, said that they were taking up an offering to build the great temple. He said, “*What we give you Lord is not ours, it is yours already.*” We just give you what is already yours.

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Look at **verse two**, “*And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind and spirit that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*” You know, there are not many people who understand what the word “worldly” means. “*Be not conformed to this world;*” be not worldly. The word, “world” means the nature, the character, the opinions and people of this world. It’s not just things and places; it’s the nature, the character, and the spirit of this world. “*Don’t be conformed to the spirit of this world,*” to the nature and opinions of this world. In other words, don’t act like the world; don’t act like them; don’t dress like them; don’t walk like them; don’t think like them; don’t talk like them and don’t “*be conformed to this world.*” Don’t let the world call the shots.

Set you a pattern and be renewed; be renewed in your mind, regenerated in your mind and in your heart; walk in the way and the will of God. The world seeks the praise and honor of men. We seek the praise and honor of God. The world seeks present comfort. We seek a city, like Abraham, “*Whose builder and maker is God.*”

Someone will say, “Well, he’s a worldly man.” What they mean by that is that he does certain things and that he goes to certain places. He may be a carnal man, a sensual man and a wicked man, and he is a worldly man in doing that, but worldliness is a state of nature. It’s a state of the heart and the mind. Christ said, “*My people are not of this world as I’m not of this world.*” That is how we are not of this world; Christ is not of this world. The world thinks of themselves and only themselves; you know that. The people of this world are greedy.

In Kentucky, there is an investigation going on now that is exposing our Senators and Congressman as being men who have sold out for a few dollars. They have even sold their votes and influence for a few dollars. What were they thinking of? They were thinking of themselves. They were not thinking of the people whom they represent. They weren’t thinking of the responsibility and the trust that was given them; they were thinking of themselves. That is the world; that is worldliness. The world cares for the body, only for the body. We care about the soul.

This world’s music reflects rebellion; this world’s dress reflects rebellion; this world’s religion reflects rebellion and this world’s language also. You can’t even go to a movie because the language is filthy and vulgar. Why? It is worldliness; it reflects rebellion against God. When you don’t use God’s name in reverence, you use His name in vain; (that is the world and the greed of this world). Worldliness is a state of mind and you and I, as children of God are told and warned by the mercies of God, “*Don’t be conformed to this world.*” Do not be like them!

Why do the churches and the preachers try to appeal to the world? Why are they trying to bring God down to this world? Why are they trying to bring Rock Music into the churches and make it a thing of worship? Don’t appeal to the world, we are not trying to please men, we are seeking to please God. Worship hasn’t changed in 6000 years; it is still recognizing God; who He is. Worship is reverencing all fear, love, worship, and is glorifying God. All

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that the churches are doing today is entertaining. It is worldliness; it's the attitude and spirit of this world. Don't be like the world; *"Be renewed in your minds."*

Look at **verse 3**, *"I say to every man among you brethren, don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think."* You're not going to change the nature. God has to change a man's heart. You are not going to do it and I am not going to do it. God will have to change it because, *"Salvation is of the Lord."* If man gets a new heart, God will have to give it to him. If a man comes to love Christ, God will have to reveal Christ to him. *"I say to every man among you brethren; don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think."*

You know, if love is the foundation of grace, then humility is the crowning grace. Are you with me? You know my friends; pride is the sin that God hates. I started to say that it is the worst sin, but over in **Proverbs 6:16-17**, he says, *"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood."*

The first word is pride. Our Lord said that there are seven things that I hate; the first one *"is a proud look."* God hates pride. I'll tell you, pride is totally inconsistent with grace. Pride is totally inconsistent with faith. Pride is totally contrary to love. If love is the foundation of grace, which it is, humility is the crowning grace. The scripture says, *"All that I know and all that I have and all that I am, and all that I hope to be is by God's grace."* So, I have no reason to think highly of myself; but rather I think highly of Him.

I find this to be true, when I meet a proud man, especially a proud, religious man, an arrogant, religious man, nothing is more inconsistent than to claim to believe in God and be proud. When I meet a man who thinks highly of himself, I know this, he usually has very low thoughts of God and secondly, very low thoughts of others. He's usually a hyper and critical individual. We are told to think soberly, seriously and according to the scriptures because *"God resisteth the proud and gives grace to the humble."*

Over in **Jeremiah 9:23**, it says, *"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom; let not the mighty man glory in his strength; let not the rich man glory in his riches, but he that glorieth, let him glory in this, that he knows Me; I am the Lord!"*

Look at **verses 4 through 5**. *"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."* I say to every one of you, *"Let none of you think of himself more highly than he ought to think"* (because the church is like a human body). A human body is one, yet it has many members. It has hands, arms, feet, legs, toes, ears and eyes. It is a human body. This is a human body standing here before you but I have many members. So, the church is one, it has many members.

Secondly, in this human body, every part and every member serves for the good of the whole body. The hand does not operate by itself; it operates for the good of this body. The

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body reaches for food to feed this body. The ears hear for the good of this body. The eyes warn us and see danger and the head ducks. The body all works together for the good of the whole body, so in the church, God in particular, puts every member there, and it serves for the glory of God and the good of the church.

In the human bodies, the members all have different services; they have different talents. The foot is not the hand, the hand is not the ear, and the ears are not the eyes. There are some in the church that preach, and some teach. Some sing, all may sing, but some sing better than others. Some minister, but some minister more effectually than others. Some rule and some show special mercies. Some have more to give. Some have the gift of prayer and some of them have the gift to read. All of these members of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ serve one another. They are all put into the body for the good of the body and for the glory of God. This body must cooperate and be in unity, work together and have one goal.

While I am speaking here, my whole body has one purpose and one goal and that is to teach His Word. My lungs and heart and everything else are engaged in this. So, the church has one purpose to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, I'm nothing and you are nothing. "*God gives the increase.*" We're just one for His glory.