



# Fundamentals of True Christian Living

ROMANS 12:1-2

# What are Fundamentals?

- ▶ Fundamentals are NOT like foundation stones.
  - ▶ Buried
  - ▶ Forgotten
  - ▶ Never used again



## What are Fundamentals?

- ▶ Fundamentals are like the alphabet.
  - ▶ Built upon but NEVER forgotten
  - ▶ Used on a daily basis



## Romans 12:1-2

- ▶ **1** 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.
- ▶ **2** 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.

# "...by the mercies of God..."

- ▶ What are the mercies of God?
  - ▶ Paul is referring to the mercies he discussed in Romans 1-11
    - ▶ How well do you really know these?
    - ▶ Do you know them so that you carry them with you like the ABCs?
  - ▶ Longsuffering, patience, and kindness of God
    - ▶ While we were "storing up wrath against [us]"—Romans 2:5
    - ▶ To lead us to repentance
  - ▶ Justification through redemption—Romans 3:24
  - ▶ We were slaves, fast-bound in sin.
    - ▶ Now we have peace with God
    - ▶ We have access to God

## "...by the mercies of God..."

- ▶ What are the mercies of God?
  - ▶ God's love
    - ▶ Romans 1:7; 5:5; 8:35-39
  - ▶ God's grace
    - ▶ 1:6,7; 3:24; 5:2,20,21; 6:15
  - ▶ God's righteousness
    - ▶ 1:17; 3:21,22; 4:5,6,22-24; 5:17,19
  - ▶ God's gift of Faith
    - ▶ 1:5,17; 3:22,26; 4:5,13; 5:1; 10:17; 12:3

# "...present your bodies a living sacrifice..."

- ▶ Example—Jesus heals the 10 lepers—Luke 17:11-19
  - ▶ Only 1 returned and "with a loud voice glorified God and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks"
  - ▶ That was a fundamental to present his body that way
- ▶ This is not a one-time event: it should happen again and again
- ▶ You cannot discount the significance of a consecrated body
- ▶ You dare not do it by misapplying 1 Samuel 16:7
- ▶ Our salvation is so that Christ can reign in our bodies
- ▶ This presentation of our bodies is our worship

# "...holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

- ▶ "service of worship" is one Greek word that occurs 5 times in the NT
  - ▶ Occurs twice in Hebrews, 9:1, 6
  - ▶ The word that the Holy Spirit uses has a very long and picturesque meaning
  - ▶ The Spirit of God wants that image to come to your mind
- ▶ Your body is not just the outer courts, it is the inner sanctum
  - ▶ That is why we have to glorify God with not just our heart but with our whole body—I Corinthians 6:19
  - ▶ Jesus was both the priest and the sacrifice.
  - ▶ We are both the temple and the priesthood—I Peter
  - ▶ And we are the sacrifice—Romans 12
  - ▶ This is called worship. This is a fundamental...EVERY day!



# “And be not conformed to this world...”

- ▶ The word “world” carries with it the idea of the current age
  - ▶ Not to be confused with the world or age to come
  - ▶ We look forward to the age where this no longer applies
- ▶ We are not to love this current age or scheme—I John 2:15-17
- ▶ The scheme of the current age is not from the Father
  - ▶ The lust of the flesh
  - ▶ The lust of the eyes
  - ▶ The pride of life
- ▶ We have freedom to enjoy the things of this world but cannot enjoy them to the extent that the world enjoys them—I Corinthians 6:12

# "...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

- ▶ Romans 6:12 follows the teaching that the reign of sin has been broken in your body.
  - ▶ You cannot separate the members of the body from the heart.
  - ▶ It is the members of the body which carry out the righteous or unrighteous thoughts of the heart.
- ▶ The foremost member of your body that needs to be surrendered is your mind.
  - ▶ How many gates are there into the mind?
  - ▶ Isn't it significant that 4 of the 5 gates are right near the brain?
  - ▶ Practically, God is talking about these gates
  - ▶ We are to present these gates a living sacrifice

# "...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

- ▶ This phrase is passive—we cannot do this ourselves
  - ▶ How then can we be transformed?
  - ▶ By the Word of God?
  - ▶ God's Word alone is not enough—I Corinthians 2:6-16
  - ▶ The Holy Spirit was sent by God to transform us—I John 2:20, 26-27
    - ▶ He does this through God's Word
    - ▶ It was the Holy Spirit who breathed out the Word of God
    - ▶ It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and helps us to discern God's Word
  - ▶ We must pray for Spiritual discernment from God—that we might know the things of God
  - ▶ Example—Psalm 119:12, 18-19, 26-27, 33, etc.



“...that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

- ▶ The climax of Romans 12:1-2 is the will of God
- ▶ Prove—a word with a front end and a back end
  - ▶ Front end—a word meaning to test or examine used for furnaces or crucibles
  - ▶ Back end—means to approve
- ▶ Christian people are to go through there days examining things
- ▶ God calls it “walking circumspectly”—Ephesians 5:15-20
- ▶ God's will is not to be a mystery.
- ▶ We are to examine things against God's Word and make decisions based on what is “good and acceptable and perfect”

# Summary

- ▶ I urge you brethren by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice
  - ▶ That means everyday, all through the day
  - ▶ This is acceptable to God. It is your spiritual service of worship
- ▶ Do not be conformed to this age (the 5 gates)
- ▶ Instead be transformed by the renewing of your mind
  - ▶ Occurs through the Scripture as it is ministered by the Spirit of God
  - ▶ Transforms your mind as your mind is subjected to His mind.
- ▶ Why? So that you may test and approve the will of God for your life—that which is good and well pleasing to God and perfect.