

Week of July 21:
True Worship
Romans 12:1-2

Have you ever been in a conversation with someone, you are telling them something you are super excited about, and they just stop paying attention to you, or interrupt you, and start talking about their own thing?

That really hurts when that happens, doesn't it?

You feel like they don't care, or that you don't even exist.

We do the same thing to God when we ignore him, let our attention wander away from him, and worship things other than God.

Romans 12:1-2 says this:

“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.

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.”

Here Paul is encouraging us to respond to God's gracious gift of salvation by offering our bodies as a pleasing sacrifice to God.

Our entire bodies.

Not just a hand or a foot, but all of our being.

When we ignore God and worship false idols of this world, we completely disregard the true and proper worship that we are called to.

What false idols do you worship?

Maybe it's your video games, your phone, your new car, your money, the sport you play, your clothes, your reputation, recognition and moving up at your job, your spouse or significant other, or feeling valued by a group of friends.

These examples and many others often sit in God's place in our lives.

When Paul says *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world,”* this includes allowing worldly things to take priority in our life over God.

Many of the false idols mentioned above are not inherently bad, many of them even come as gifts from God, but it is when these things take precedence over God that they become false idols.

God wants our full, undivided worship.

We are saved by God's gracious love, through faith in him, and our response to that needs to be a completely changed and renewed life—a life in total awe, reverence, and worship of him.

Our response to salvation in Jesus cannot be to continue with our lives as normal and add a little bit of God into our lives. He wants to be the focus of our entire life.

We can't worship God and worship false idols at the same time.

God is a jealous God and He wants us to break off from our old ways and false idols and turn to Him and the life He has in store for us.

We must reorient our lives from those false idols to the true and ultimate God.

True worship is only ascribing ultimate value to God.

Everything else will distort us and leave us dissatisfied.

God wants our whole being as a sacrifice, but not just any sacrifice, "*a living sacrifice.*"

We are called to live our lives for Jesus as a sacrifice to Him.

Our lives are His now, and everything we do must be for Christ, and in worship of Him.

What does this look like?

This can look like attending regular Sunday worship services, reading your Bible, and praying often; but this is only a start.

We can worship through music, singing, art, and dancing.

We can worship by being in creation and community.

We can worship by confessing our sins to God and one another, and asking for forgiveness.

We worship God when we get baptized and take communion.

And we worship when we serve others.

This list could go on and on but the point is that **God deserves all of our worship, from our entire being, all the time.**

So, today let's worship His Majesty, God of the universe, our Creator, and our Redeemer.

JOURNALING & REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Do you have a false idol that takes the place of God in your life?
- If so, what can you do to reorient your worship back to God?
- In what ways can you live as a sacrifice for Jesus every day?
- Take a look at what you do in a day; how can everything you do be reoriented as an act of worship of God?
- Read the rest of Romans 12 this week and take note of all the different commands throughout the chapter. How can you live out these commands

worshipfully this week?

PRAYER

Lord, you are so good to us. Everything we have is because of you. We get to live today because you chose to love us despite our sinfulness, and made a way for us to be free from guilt and shame. In response, we want to worship You with everything we have. Help us to focus on You this week and not allow distractions and false idols to get in the way of our worship.

Thank you for all You do God, You deserve all our praise.

Amen.