

**Change for a Purpose**  
**July 15, 2007**  
Romans 12:1-8  
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**I.**

**Is Change Possible?**

Romans 12:2 “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

Some say, “If I could only change,” (younger)

- my location (latitude-attitude)
- my job
- my spouse
- weight
- lifestyle

Others say, “Don’t change anything. Hold still!” (older)

\*Most of us end up:

-Settling for the status quo

“Chop and change, and with each new change comes a fresh mistake” (RW Service): my experience in CO

(or)

-“Lead lives of quiet desperation” (Henry David Thoreau)

Jeff and Geneva: Have to change because the culture has changed

- Jeff: preaching, approach to people, Refocus, Breakthrough
- Geneva: inward to outward focus

Is change possible for me/us? If so, how?

**II.**

**Basis for Change**

Romans 12:1 “I appeal to you . . . by the mercies of God”

**Paul and Rome:**

- never been there
- Paul’s Magnum Opus (from Corinth 55-56 AD)

- typical Pauline letter, Doctrine-Exhortation (e.g Eph 4)
- Ch 12 begins the exhortation (12:1-15:13), “so what” section

**Romans 12:1-2 READ 12:1a**

**Basis for exhortation = 12:1a**

- not “You ought to change” = change is yours
- not “Buck up” and change = change is yours
- not “Do the best you can” = no change
- not “Somehow you’ll get by” = no change

\*What is Paul’s basis for exhortation?

**“By the mercies of God”**

What are God’s *mercies*?

- Greek Word *oiktirmos*, always plural
- Hebrew word *rahamim*, always plural
- Exod 33:19 is classic text: READ
  - In context of sin and salvation, new life
  - Moses wants to know YHWH identity
- word *rahamim* = womb (plural of intensity)

\*\* “God’s Mama love” (Mother Mercies)

POINT: God has done something in Jesus Christ for you and me; come to die and been raised to new life for all creation. We may now live in the new life God promises in the resurrection of Jesus before the general resurrection. You can live this life right now!

E.g. An already written symphony, which all creation will eventually perform, we get to perform now

Task for us is to play the tune	now
Live the new life	now
Show others the new life	now

How does this happen?

### III.

#### What is Change? Playing the Tune

Romans 12:1 “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed”

READ 12:1b-2

#### Exhortation Itself: 2 Metaphors

Here’s how we play the tune

##### Sacrifice Metaphor:

-basis is OT system = give something to God

-language is sacrifice: present, sacrifice, holy,  
pleasing (odor), body

-*logical* worship (Greek background of integrity of  
outer and inner) see footnote *reasonable*

-usually sacrifice is negative (Lev 1-7)

-but *Todah* sacrifice (Ps 136) positive

\*the thanks sacrifice is in mind here

POINT: Play the tune through thanksgiving

##### Pattern Metaphor:

What is the greatest learning technique? Modeling

You become your model

##### Do Not Be Conformed = *suschematizo* (neg)

(reference is back to Rom 1:21, 28 *senseless minds*,  
*debased minds* of this age)

\*verb is middle (we do it ourselves)

-Everyone lives after a model, it just happens!

E.g.,

Guitar playing Doc Watson

I had an Al Dark glove, Bobby Hull stick

POINT: Not whether you do or not, but what the model is.

**Be Transformed = *metamorphao* (pos)**

\*verb is passive, God does it

-by the renewal of you mind (back to Rom 1:21)

-compare Rom 1:28 same words

-*adokimon* noun = debased mind

-*nous* . . . *dokimazein* = discerning mind

\*God transforms us so that we discern how to play the tune

**IV.**

**Result of Change**

Romans 12:2b “so that you may discern the will of God”

We cannot discern until God changes us.

Once God does ,we can do what is good, acceptable, perfect

What does it look like for us with *renewed* minds to play the *tune* that one day all creation will play?

For Paul and Romans, READ 12:3-8

For us, here’s what it looks like:

Interview Rick Lange and Jim Burge

1. Tell me about going to Via Iglesia
2. How were you received?
3. How do you see us using our gifts to impact that community for Jesus Christ?