

Exegesis Paper on Roman 12:1-5

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GCN 501.OA Perspective of Counselor Formation

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April 21, 2023

Roman 12:1-5 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (New King James Version, 2020, Rom.12:1-5)

I choose Romans 12: 1-5 for this paper because I've always found it significant to who I'm supposed to be. Even as someone who considers themselves Christian, there are times when I find myself overwhelmed while going through day to day life. Sometimes it's because of my personal responsibilities and other times it is caused by interactions with other people. It will be easy for me to conform to the patterns of the world and justify our actions as the way of life.

In these scriptures it states to not conform to the ways of this world that we see every day or the culture of our society, but to be transformed by the renewing our mind. Even though we may see how others around us behave and may feel it would be fair to respond similar, as Christians we have a responsibility to be a witness of what is the acceptable and perfect will of God.

The scripture Roman 12:2 Is especially significant to me because it states to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. This is a daily practice for me because when I am face with adversity or put in situations that are not fair, I do not always feel like being a living

sacrifice that is holy or acceptable to God but I'm reminded that this is my reasonable service. By renewing my mind from the stress and meditating on things that are just, pure, lovely, of good report, have virtue and is praiseworthy, I am able to prove the good and acceptable and the perfect will of God.

From my understanding of the scripture, Paul is talking to the Christian Church in Rome, somewhere around the year of 57 CE, which is theorized to be 25 years after Jesus was crucified. During this time, Rome is considered to be a great nation with prestige, wealth and power. Civilization was composed of Romans, Greeks and Jews. Under this civilization, Christians were living in a culture that did not align with the virtues and morals of God.

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome. Even though he had not visited that region he considered them part of the body of Christ. These scriptures of the Roman letter discussed how they should present themselves and how they should relate to other members of the church. In these verses, he is telling them that they should present themselves as holy, acceptable and a sacrifice, which is a reasonable service.

He also tells them to be humble with one another because collectively they create the body, and no one part is more important than the other. Each member of the body has their own assignment and they should depend on one another.

In conclusion, I believe my initial thoughts of the scriptures were not far off from what Paul intent when he wrote the scripture. Through research, I did realize that although he was giving instructions to individuals on not conforming to the ways of culture, he was also explaining the importance of the church community. I should strive to be the best me, as a form of worship to God and my works should aid the body of Christ.

I also think that these verses are as relevant now as when it was originally written. I am living in a culture where people glorify and think highly of themselves, but give little attention to God's word or the next person. It will fit societal norms if I choose to behave in the same fashion but I am one of the chosen who chose to live as a living sacrifice, which is a form of my worship to God. Daily I allow God to transform my mind with his word so that my actions will be pleasing to him.

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