

## Transformed to Serve

Romans 12:1 – 13:7

**Getting Started** (Spend just a few minutes thinking about these!)

In what ways do you most view yourself as a conformist? What are the actions you are aware of that demonstrate this type of conformity?

In what way do you see yourself as a non-conformist? Why do you choose not to conform? Do you think it makes a difference?



**In the Word** (This week's text is Romans 12:1 – 13:7; Groups are not expected to discuss all questions!)

1. Paul's call to action in Romans 12 & 13 begins with an appeal to "God mercy" (12:1).
  - a. How does God's mercy motivate the believer?
  - b. Looking back at Romans 10 & 11, how does Israel's history illustrate God's mercy?
  - c. Why is offering your "bodies as living sacrifices" a "reasonable" response?
2. Compare Romans 12:1 to Romans 6:13 & 19.
  - a. What do these passages reveal about "true" worship?
  - b. What is being "offered" to God?
  - c. Is it just a "body" or the "parts" of a body?
3. The follow-up to Paul's call to become "living sacrifices" is the admonition to "not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed" (Romans 12:2).
  - a. How do these two concepts relate to one another (sacrifice and non-conformity)?
  - b. What value do you see in this as an introduction to what is found in Romans 12:3-8?
  - c. Why would this be important for the Roman church to hear as they dealt with the apparent problem of Jewish and Gentile Christians finding it difficult to work with one another?
4. Can you think of any other passage(s) of Scripture that is similar to Romans 12:9-21? Share it with the group and how you think it all fits together.

### **Application**

1. Every Christian, every church, must struggle with the process of transformation. How can we avoid becoming satisfied with "religion" and avoiding the demands of transformation and being living sacrifices?
2. How can you be encouraged this week to surrender to God's mercies and maintain your commitment to "spiritual worship" or "reasonable service"?

### **Prayer Time:**

1. How can the group pray for you this week?