

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

### *Romans // Living Sacrifices*

**Pastor Marcus**

**August 7, 2022**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** If you were one of the five senses, which one would you be?

**Reading:** Romans 12:1-21

#### **Outline:**

- I. Be Transformed (Romans 12:1-2)
  - A. Paul explains that in light of the Gospel, true and proper worship is offering ourselves as living sacrifices to God so as to transform ourselves to do God's will.
  - B. Paul also warns us against conforming to the world. Irenaeus expands on this idea by explaining that Christ became what we are so that we may become what He is. Thus, while God loves us as who we are, we must be wary of conforming to worldly standards so as to live as God transformed us to be.  
**Q: *Where in your life do you find yourself tempted by conforming to the world?***
- II. Use Your Gifts (Romans 12:3-7)
  - A. Paul reminds us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought and to instead be reminded that we are each given gifts we are called to use in accordance with our faith to serve the body of Christ.
  - B. Things that can get in the way of using our gifts for the body of Christ are arrogance and self-loathing. Arrogance tells us our gifts are the only ones that matter while self-loathing tells us that we don't have any gifts. Neither of these encourage us to use our gifts in partnership with other members of the church and thereby hinder us from sharing the Gospel to others.  
**Q: *Do you see self-loathing or arrogance hindering the use of your gifts or the gifts of those around you?***
- III. Be a Sign (Romans 12:9-21)
  - A. We are called to live in such a way that good overcomes evil, which mimics the way in which Christ lived. Thus, we are called to be signs of our savior Jesus.
  - B. When we as God's people live in the commitment to overcome evil with good, we become icons of the one who overcame sin, death, and evil on the cross.  
**Q: *In what specific ways in your life do you/can you live as an icon of Christ?***

#### **Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) What do you believe are your spiritual gifts?
- 2) How can you use your specific spiritual gifts in harmony with others in the church?
- 3) Have you ever had a particularly powerful experience using your spiritual gifts?
- 4) How can one identify their spiritual gifts?
- 5) How can we encourage and remind each other to live as icons of Christ?

#### **Suggestions for further study:**

- 1 John 2:15-17 Q: How do these verses relate to living in such a way that good overcomes evil?
- 1 Timothy 1:5 Q: How does this verse relate to our love being genuine? How does that change what you think loving each other means?

#### **Closing Prayer:**

God, thank you for sending your Son as an example for how to live so that good overcomes evil. Help us to avoid arrogance and self-loathing so that we may use our spiritual gifts to the greatest of our abilities to share your Gospel. Continue to support and strengthen us as we strive to live as living sacrifices for you. Amen.