

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Knowing the Good, Pleasing, and Perfect Will of God

Romans 12:1-2 | 21 May 2023 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Please read Romans 12

1. What are some practical ways a Christian could offer his/her body as a living sacrifice to God? [Have you done any of the ways suggested by the DG?]
2. The Bible calls us not to conform to the pattern of the world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. What are some of the pattern/beliefs of the world that a good number of Christians have adopted/embraced (whether knowingly or unknowingly)? What are the corresponding biblical truths?

What are some steps you have taken (or could take) toward the renewing of your mind?

3. Some of the areas that are important to many people are:
 - Marriage & Family
 - Career (work)
 - Money
 - Health (consider all areas of health: body, soul {mind, emotions, will}, spirit)
 - Our goals

What do you think is God's Good, Pleasing and Perfect Will in these areas?

4. Looking at verses 9 to 16, what expressions of love do you find in verses 9-16 (find all that you can)?

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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Many of the statements on how to express love also include a negative – what not to do. What can you learn from each negative?

Thoughtfully consider our Disciple Group. Which of these expressions of love do you regularly see here? (Who does what to show that love?)

5. Looking at verses 17 to 21, what does it mean to *“heap burning coals on his head”*?

Some commentators suggest that the pain inflicted by the burning coals is a symbol of the shame and remorse experienced by an enemy who is rebuked by kindness. Other commentators suggest that the coals are a symbol of penitence – they draw attention to an ancient Egyptian ritual in which a penitent would carry burning coals on his head as evidence of the reality of his repentance.

Focus on verse 18. How might the note of realism expressed here *“if it is possible”* encourage you about difficult relationships in your life? If there are difficult relationships in your life, have you done anything *“as far as it depends on you”*?

In what practical ways might this passage from Romans 12 help you to obey Christ’s command to *“love your enemies, do good to those who hate you”* (Luke 6:27)?

{2 of the questions above are adapted from a study of the book of Romans by John Stott}.

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