



Romans:  
A Life of  
Faith

**“FROM, IN, AND FOR”**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**

**DATE: OCT 9, 2022**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:  
ROMANS 12:1-2**

Pastor Brad, unpacks the implications of Romans 12:1-2 in this stirring message, beginning with a question: What does it really mean to be a Christian? If Jesus is who the Gospels depict him to be, then that's a really important question. Paul thought so, and he spends 11 chapters of his letter to the Romans explaining the Christian Gospel, theologically, philosophically, and historically.

He spends that time because he doesn't want Jesus' way reduced to a list of rules and religious obligations. However, when he finally does turn his attention to what a Christian does, he sums it up in a couple of verses, simple and profound. He doesn't lecture from afar, but invites us to *join* him in a radically different way to be human where we share in a vibrant life that is from God, in us, *and* for us.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. If someone asked you to describe your self in one word, what would you say?
2. Have you ever really wondered what it meant to who you are: a father, a child, a doctor, or whatever? It's a deep question, isn't it?
3. What kinds of things do you sacrifice, like leisure or entertainment, in order to do the things that are most important to you?
4. What shapes your opinions about, well, almost everything?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How does verse one begin and why is that important?
2. What does Paul want his fellow Christians to do and what's his rationale?
3. What does this passage indicate about the nature of worship?
4. How does Paul characterize conformity, and why do you think he's writing about that? What things are mentioned that have the potential to shape us?
5. According to the passage, what transforms us? What do you think Paul means when he writes, "mind?"
6. How does Paul describe God's will? In view of chapters 1-11, why do you think he does so?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What shapes the way most people think? What transforms their minds, if not God and his Gospel?
2. How do you think most people relate to God's mercy? How might they understand the phrase, "...in view of God's mercy,..."?
3. What are the biggest questions people ask about their identity and purpose?
4. What do you think most people in our culture would willingly sacrifice for?
5. Do you think most people think about God's will? Why or why not? If they do, how do you think they relate?

**CONTINUED:**

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What is your “therefore...?” What gives your life shape, meaning and purpose?
2. How have you experienced the mercy of God? What has been your response, and how have his mercies shaped your life?
3. How do you related to the phrase “true and proper worship?” What do you think makes worship true and proper?
4. What renews your mind? Where do you find the transformation Paul writes about. How does that actually work in your life: through prayer and Bible reading, long walks with God, in worship, or...?
5. How do you discern God’s will for you?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Make a list of all the ways God’s been merciful to you. Take a moment to thank him for each one.
2. Spend some time this week to think about how worship can be a more pervasive part of your everyday life. Try to broaden your idea of worship to include dedicating all you do in a given day to God’s glory. What would it look like to be that kind of “living sacrifice?”
3. Ask God how you might be able to more internationally, freely, and joyfully embrace his will for your life.