

The War in Us

Romans 12:1-2

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- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- “Reasonable act of service” – “Reasonable act of worship” (NLT)
- What is reasonable when it comes to worshipping Christ?
- we see in Romans 12 that there are two battles that are taking place: one for our heart and one for our mind.

- When is a sacrifice not a sacrifice? When love is not motivation.
- When is a sacrifice not a sacrifice? When love is the only motivation.
- (1 Corinthians 13)

James 4:1-3

- Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

- Proverbs 4:23 - Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (NLT)
- I saw that giving even all my life to God (supposing it possible to do this and go no further) would profit me nothing unless I gave my heart, yea, all my heart, to Him. – John Wesley

- The key question that arises from verse one of our text is not, “Do I love Jesus more than the devil?” but rather “Do I love Jesus more than myself?”.

- Many Christians have a superficial love because they have a superficial relationship.
- “Love is found more in the things we’ve given up than in the things that we’ve kept”. – Rich Mullins
- When we begin to grasp the cost that Jesus paid, we will not be concerned with the price we pay to love and serve Him.

- We may want to know God's will for our lives, but we will never know that without our minds being transformed and renewed.
- 98% of all our battles will happen between our ears.

- There is more of our old life in us than we may realize.
- The old life isn't simply about the obvious sins we committed; it also was and is our old ways of thinking, our beliefs, our attitudes, our actions and reactions and priorities.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

- ⁹ “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and *desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the Lord, search the heart, / test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.
- * *Incurably sick*

- *“What we think about when we are free to think about what we will – that is what we are or will soon become.” – A. W. Tozer*
- We must daily choose to love Jesus more than ourselves and we must daily choose to change and be like Jesus more.
- We must learn to think like Jesus.

Romans 12:2 - AMP

- ² And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes] ...
- Spiritual/godly morals and ethics are found in one place alone, God's Word.
- The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. – D.L. Moody

James 4:4-8

- ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

- Weapon #1 – Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)
- Weapon #2 – Humility
- Weapon #3 – Submission

- God doesn't seek for golden vessels, and does not ask for silver ones, but He must have clean ones. – D.L. Moody
- The only way to be effective in my ministry or even to know what my ministry should be requires a submissive, sacrificial life dedicating to living and serving Jesus apart from my “ministry calling”.