

**Entering In: (Ice breaker questions – answer one)**

What is your earliest memory?

What do you do the “renew” yourself when you’re tired or down?

**The Context:**

Romans 12 begins with a “therefore” and as the saying goes, “Where there’s a therefore, it’s there for a reason.” Paul here transitions from doctrine and teaching to instructions for living. He moves from the good news of the gospel to the good advice for Christian living, or from “evangel” to “ethic,” and it begins with offering “your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.”

**Going Deeper**

**Review Romans 1 through 12 and identify passage(s) in each of the following sections which capture each theme of the following overview:**

- Romans 1 – 3. *Condemnation*
- Romans 4 – 5. *Justification*
- Romans 6 – 7. *Sanctification*
- Romans 8. *Glorification*
- Romans 9 – 11. *Inclusion of the Gentiles* (good news for everyone, not jus the Jews)

**1. “Reasonable thinking leads us to the duty of constant, total surrender to God.”**

Can you identify milestones in your life where you offered God “total surrender”? How did those experiences contribute to your spiritual maturity?

How does a believer “offer [one’s] body as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God”?

In the sermon, Pastor stated, “Life is worship.” What does this look like practically? Do you ever find that when we define something so broadly, the meaning gets lost? Where do Sunday worship services fit into this?

Paul writes “Offer your bodies” to a first century audience that viewed the mind as everything and the body as meaningless. A person could do whatever they wanted, as long as the mind was enlightened and free. How is this view similar or different from the prevailing cultural view today?

Sometimes even in evangelical circles, we seem to emphasize the soul and overlook the body. How do the following verses show us the importance of the body?

Gen. 1:26-31 and John 1:14

Matt 25:34-45

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**2. Renewed thinking embraces God's eternal design.**

Paul calls us to be transforming, not conforming. But the spirit of our age tells us to "Spend today!" or "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you die!" What 3 ways does 1 Peter 1:13 instruct us to not conform?

How else might we encourage the transforming process in our lives?

Pastor gave the illustration of the men working on building the new towers at ground zero in NYC. For some, they simply saw themselves as metal workers doing their job of putting the steel beams together. But there were others who knew they wanted to be part of this project because they saw themselves as being involved in changing the skyline of New York.

What are ways you might see your own life as "changing the skyline of eternity"?

What are ways we as Calvary Church might be "changing the skyline of eternity" here in our towns and relationships? Brainstorm together ideas that might change the skyline.

**3. Think realistically. Realistic thinking causes us to maximize our differences for the good of His body, His church, His kingdom.**

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

What is/are your gift(s)?

Take time in the group to speak into the lives of the others and tell them what you see to be their gifts.

**Stop and Think.**

**1. Your duty is to surrender to God. Everything you do and everything you have belongs to Him.**

For Personal Reflection:

What aspect of your life or situation or relationship do you consider to be the hardest part to surrender to Him right now? What would it look like for you to surrender that to Him? What would change look like?

**2. Renew your mind. Focus on where all this fits in the light of eternity.**

What is something you might do to change the skyline of eternity?

**3. How am I maximizing His saving grace? How am I making too much or too little of myself?**

**4. Realistic thinking says I belong to others and to Christ.**

What does this look like practically in your life?

In what ways could you grow in belonging to others and to Christ?