

GOD'S MERCY IN JESUS CALLS FOR A LIFE OF WORSHIP

Introduction – In Romans the justice of God is defended because now some Jews and Gentiles have found a new life in the Spirit of faith, hope, and love in Jesus.

A. Our relationship with other disciples shows that a new age has dawned!

Romans 12:1-13

1. There are not five acts of worship (prayer, communion, singing, collection, and preaching) that can be done in a church building. Instead our life in the body is our sacrificial spiritual act of worship.
2. God's gracious gift to us is first of all a sober self-esteem.
3. Like our physical bodies, the church is characterized by unity in diversity.
4. Practical advice for our life together (vs. 9-13).

B. Our relationship to our neighbors who live in this present age must show that there is a new King on the throne.

Romans 12:14-13:7

1. Make a positive difference in your secular community and do not be conceited.
2. Do not respond to evil done to you by cursing or seeking revenge, instead seek peace and harmony.
3. God partially accomplishes justice in our human societies through secular authorities.

C. We live in-between two ages where we must reject the deeds of darkness and live love.

Romans 13:8-14

1. In a consumer society, it is difficult to stay out of debt.
2. In most ancient societies people got up at first light before the sun came up. This serves as a model of living between two ages or times.

Conclusion – Religious people tend to substitute church building activity for a life of worship owed to God. God's justice must be personally and corporately transformative for us.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the New Testament re-envision worship as a lifestyle?
2. How does this new idea of worship reflect itself in our common life together in the church family?
3. How are we to live with our secular neighbors as a royal priesthood?