

## Kingdom Character - Exploring Romans 12 (1) - Presenting ourselves to God

2pm Sunday 29 March 2026

### Key Scriptures: Romans 12:1-3

Romans 12 marks a decisive “therefore” moment—Paul moves from gospel truth to gospel lifestyle. Because God has shown mercy, our response is not mere belief in theory but embodied devotion in practice. Paul appeals “on the basis of God’s mercy” and calls believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and acceptable to God—describing this as our “reasonable act of worship.” This means worship is not only what we sing; it is what we surrender. “Bodies” speaks to our whole lived reality—our time, habits, relationships, sexuality, money, work, service, and private choices. The offering God seeks is not a detached spirituality but a whole-life yes: “Here I am, Lord—my life belongs to You.” This is not driven by guilt but by gratitude: we are moved by mercy before we are ever asked for sacrifice.

Paul then names the challenge: “Do not be conformed to this age.” The world constantly tries to press us into its mould—its scripts for success, identity, belonging, and desire. For young adults in London and across the nations, this “age” can look different on the surface, but the pressure is similar: shape your life around self, status, image, comfort, or fear. Kingdom character begins with resistance to that moulding. But Paul doesn’t only say “don’t”; he says “do”: “be transformed by the renewing of the mind.” Transformation is inside-out, and renewal is ongoing. In a Pentecostal context, we believe this renewal is not willpower alone—it is the Spirit’s work as we yield, obey, and soak our minds in God’s truth. Renewed minds lead to discernment—the ability to recognise God’s will as “good and acceptable and perfect.”

Finally, Paul anchors this journey in humility: don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think with “sober judgement,” remembering that faith, grace, and gifting are received—not earned. Kingdom character starts at the altar of surrender and continues in the posture of humility. The invitation is simple and costly: present yourself to God—fully—and let the Holy Spirit form Christ in you.

#### Four Key Discussion / Cell Questions

1. **Mercy as Motivation:** Paul appeals “on the basis of God’s mercy.” Where have you personally experienced God’s mercy recently—and how does that change the way you think about surrender?
2. **Whole-Life Worship:** What does “present your bodies as a living sacrifice” look like in your real week (work/study, relationships, online life, finances, sexuality, rest)? Identify one area God may be asking you to place on the altar.
3. **Conformity Check:** Where do you feel pressure to be “conformed to this age”? What are the moulds (messages, habits, cultural expectations) trying to shape you—and what practical boundary or practice could help you resist?
4. **Renewing the Mind + Humility:** Paul links transformation to renewing the mind and calls us to “sober judgement.” What is one Spirit-led practice you can commit to this week (Scripture, prayer, worship, fasting, mentoring, accountability) to renew your mind—and how will you keep your posture humble as you grow?