

Romans: Whole Lives for a Holy God
Romans 12:1-2

Biblical worship is the full-life response—head, heart, and hands—to who God is and what He has done. (Chris Collins)

Question #1: Why should you give your whole life to God?

- There are all kinds of reasons why we should give our whole lives to God.

God is our creator.

Serving God glorifies God.

Doing right is right.

Serving God pleases God.

Obedience leads to joy and life.

Serving God reflects God.

Disobedience leads to misery and death.

Obedience helps us see God.

- Romans 12:1 gives us a key reason for giving our whole lives to God—gratitude for mercy.

Once you have a good view of God's mercy, anything less than a total, complete sacrifice of yourself to God is completely irrational! If you give yourself partially or half-heartedly, you are simply not thinking; you are not looking at what Jesus did. If what he did does not move you or break the ice over your soul, you must ask yourself if you have ever understood the gospel. (Tim Keller)

- Application:

- Do you see the radically different nature of the Christian faith?

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (Matthew 22:37)

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

- Is gratitude to God a regular part of your life?

In Romans 1, Paul says that after the fall humanity was "no longer thankful" (v. 21). The gospel of free grace in Christ restores our gratitude, which fuels our lives. (Michael Horton)

Question #2: What does it mean to give your whole life to God?

- Biblical worship is not restricted by time.
- Biblical worship is not restricted to certain areas of our lives.
- Biblical worship is not restricted to what is convenient.

And [Jesus] said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

This was my conversion in a nutshell: I lost everything but the dog. (Rosaria Butterfield)

Question #3: How do you give your whole life to God?

- We must not be conformed to the norms of the world.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

- We must be transformed by the truths of the gospel.
 - Transformation is something that must be done for us *and* by us.
 - Transformation is something that must be truly gospel-centered.

It would be possible, perhaps to teach an uneducated person to recognize some of the traits of gold without his knowing how valuable gold is. So, you might give him a job panning gold with you in a stream and pay him a dollar an hour while he accurately tests the yellow stones and tosses thousands of dollars worth of gold nuggets into your bag.

That is not the kind of renewal Paul is talking about. He is not saying: read enough books or listen to enough tapes or sermons so that you can spot a good deed when you see it and then work up the discipline to do it. He is saying, be renewed so deeply in your mind that you not only can test and spot gold when you see it, but also love gold—approve gold, treasure gold. (John Piper)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)