



### **Set Apart Beliefs - Romans 12:1-2**

This year, we are developing the theme, "Living Fully - Living Holy". As we continue to reflect on what holiness (being set apart) looks like in some of the very practical areas of our lives, today we'll focus on the truth that what we believe impacts our lives day-to-day.

Our belief systems are...

- our life stance, worldview, ideology, philosophy. (Wikipedia)
- what we believe about certain areas of our lives.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes that we are to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds." We do this by ensuring that our belief systems are coherent with scripture. Romans 12:1-2 challenges us to look at three different areas of our lives:

1. Scripture centered beliefs about God are to be rooted in His mercy. (12:1a)
  - a. The first 11 chapters of Romans reveal that God alone is merciful and we can only be saved by Him, through Jesus.
  - b. Some attributes of God are expressed through His mercy: God is love, God is omniscient, God is sovereign, God is omnipotent.
2. Scripture centered beliefs about ourselves call us to be loved worshippers of God.(12:1b)
  - a. We can tend to think too highly of ourselves, but at the same time it can be easy for us to think too lowly of ourselves. This passage reminds us that we are to live as sacrifices to God, giving our lives to Him as worship.
  - b. "Living sacrifices" implies that we are to be giving the totality of our lives to Him in such a way that acknowledges that we are completely His.
  - c. "Spiritual act of worship" implies that worship is the response of all we are and do to all God is and does. God delights in this, and is glorified in us as we live our lives as loved worshippers.
3. Scripture centered beliefs about the world remind us we are not citizens of its system but citizens of Heaven. (12:2)
  - a. To "Not be conformed" to the world means that we are not to let others in the world influence us, we are to let God influence us. The question becomes: are we being transformed by the world, or is Christ transforming us so we can be a light to the world?

What we believe impacts our spiritual health...

Are your beliefs about God rooted in the fact that God is unconditionally merciful, expressed in His love, power, and plan? Are your beliefs about yourself that you are loved and that God delights in your worship? Are your beliefs about the world that you are not to be conformed to it, but to be seeking to have Christ's love transforming it through you?