

4. What are some examples of what it looks like when we worship God in our everyday life?

5. How does the chart in the outline (Devil - Flesh - World) help you make sense of the inner fight not to conform to this age?

6. How would you apply, to other situations we face, the point N.T. Wright is making when he responded to the Prime Ministers idea that the Anglican church has to “get with the program” and ordain women bishops? (Keep in mind, he agreed with the idea based on his understanding of Scripture.)

“The spirit of the age is...notoriously fickle. You might as well, walking in the mist, take a compass bearing on a mountain goat. ...The Church’s foundation documents (to say nothing of its Founder himself) were notoriously on the wrong side of history. The Gospel was foolishness to the Greeks, said St Paul, and a scandal to Jews. The early Christians got a reputation for believing in all sorts of ridiculous things such as humility, chastity and resurrection, standing up for the poor and giving slaves equal status with the free. And for valuing women more highly than anyone else had ever done. People thought them crazy, but they stuck to their counter-cultural Gospel. If the Church had allowed prime ministers to tell them what the “programme” was, it would have sunk without trace in fifty years. If Jesus had allowed Caiaphas or Pontius Pilate to dictate their “programme” to him there wouldn’t have been a Church in the first place.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

The Fellowship of the Gospel (A Series on Romans 12-16)
“3 Keys to Living Wisely” (Part 1)
Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, brothers and sisters,
I urge you, in view of God’s mercy,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God—
this is your true and proper worship.
Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but
be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—
his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3 Keys to Living Wisely (Part 1)

What is biblical wisdom?

If we follow the _____ throughout the whole story of God it takes us back to the Garden of Eden and the choice between the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Which is more than a choice between doing what’s right and wrong.

It’s about choosing between Good and Evil.

It’s about choosing who we will _____ (“God is keeping something from you”).

It’s about who we are (“You can be like God”).

Wisely = Living in alignment with God and his purposes, plans, and designs (=the good life) in a world separated from God (rebellion, treason) and out of alignment with his purposes, plans, and desires.

Blessed is the one who does not

walk in step with the wicked or
stand in the way that sinners take or
sit in the company of mockers,
but

whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and
who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and
whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

1. _____ God by offering your entire self and life to God as a sacrifice.

Galatians 2: ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

(The Message) "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering."

2. Do not conform to the _____ of this world.

Galatians 1: ⁴ ...rescue us from the present evil age.

2 Corinthians 4: ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers...

Ephesians 6: ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but ...against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read Matthew 12:1-2. What are some of the ways this passage links the whole letter to the Romans, not just to the previous paragraph or even the previous three chapters?

3. How is what Paul writes here linked to or the consequence of the gospel of God's grace in Christ?

Deceptive ideas...	▶	that play to disordered desires...	▶	that are normalized in a sinful society.
(the DEVIL)		(the FLESH)		(the WORLD)