

December 8 Answers

- 1) Paul called the Romans to live out in **practice** what was true of them in spirit, and his commands are the **calling** of our lives. First, and perhaps most important, we are called to **consecrate** ourselves to God (Rom 12:1). Before we were saved, we had nothing to offer God except our sin, but now that we have been washed in the cleansing blood of Christ, we can offer **ourselves** to God as **living, holy** sacrifices (cf. Lev 1:1–4; Num 3:9–13). This is an act of submission and **consecration**, and it means that we give up the right to have our own way and **surrender** unconditionally to God’s will for our lives. Second, we are called to be **transformed** by “the renewal of our mind” (Rom 12:2). This means we must **soak** our minds in God’s Word and allow the Spirit to conform our thinking to God’s. We are called to use our spiritual gifts in humble **service** to the church, not thinking more highly of ourselves than we should, but working to **build** up our fellow believers. We are called to **submit** to the governing authorities, for all power and authority finds its source in **God**, and those that exist have been put there by Him. As long as man’s authority does not contradict God’s will (Acts 5:28–29), we must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of **conscience**. We are called to fulfill the law by **loving** others, for “love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom 13:10). We are called to **cast** off the works of darkness and **put** on the armor of light, not making **provision** for the flesh to gratify its desires, but putting on the Lord Jesus Christ.