



Kicking Off

Northwest Airlines flight 255 crashed just after taking off from Detroit airport in 1987 killing all 155 passengers and crew in 1987. Or so it was thought. Incredibly one person survived the crash: a four-year-old girl called Cecelia. The rescue fireman who found her said: *“I heard that faint cry a baby doll makes. I looked and I could see an arm, kind of bent, coming out of a chair.”* Cecelia told the rescuers how she survived: As the plane was falling, her mother unbuckled her own seat belt, got down on her knees in front of Cecelia wrapped her arms and body around her, and then did not let her go. Nothing could separate that child from her mother's love—neither tragedy nor disaster, neither the fall nor the flames, neither life nor death.

You and I were like Cecelia. We were spiralling down to disaster because of our sin. But God loved us so much that he left his heavenly throne, came down to our level, & covered us with the sacrifice of his own body so we might be saved from the Fall. What love. What grace. What mercy.

How will you respond to such sweet, tender mercy in your life?

Romans 12 points us to respond in 3 ways:



Digging Deeper

(Please see the sermon on our website to help you answer these questions)

Read Romans 12

Q How can you keep God's mercy in view in your life (v1)?

Q What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice (v1)? How will you do this in your life?

Q In what ways are you pressured to conform to the patterns of the old age (v2)?

Q We don't automatically lose our old habits of thinking & behaving when we come to Christ, and our mindsets are not automatically renewed just because a certain number of years have passed since we became a Christian. Why do we need to renew our minds? How can we renew our minds (v2)?

Q What does it mean that 'our minds must be renewed by the upside down gospel'?

Q How does seeing life through the lens of the upside-down gospel enable us to know God's will (v2)?

Q In ch11&14 we see there were disputes & divisions in the church in Rome to the extent that the Gentile Christians & Jewish Christians were no longer eating together. Eating together is such a fundamental expression of fellowship that we can imagine what a deep and visible rift this made in the church. Paul is desperate for the church to be unified. What will bring the church together (v3)?

Q What does it mean that we are members of the body of Christ (v5) ?

Sermon Based Bible Study Romans 12

Q In what sense do we belong to each other (v5)?

Q What gifts has God given you to serve the body? Are you using them?

Q Contrast the life of someone in the old age described in Romans ch 1, & the life of a Christian now we are in the new age (v9-21).

Q 4 times we are told to seek the good of our enemies in ch 12. Why does Paul emphasize this?

Q Verse 13 says: Share with the Lord's people who are in need.' Why is this a necessary response to the mercy of God?

Q How are you sharing with your fellow Christian brothers and sisters who are in need?



Think it through

Q A young woman says to you, *'Does God really care what we do with our bodies? What does he care who I sleep with?'*

How would you answer her?

Q Some people say *'I love Jesus but I don't like church'*. How would you reply to them?

Q *'A non-serving Christian is a contradiction in terms'*. Discuss.