

# ROMANS

## Session 10: Living the New in the Old

### **Opening Discussion**

Do you identify with what Lewis is saying here?  
Why or why not?

In your life, how is Christianity easier than you thought?

How is it harder?

*“Christianity is different: [it’s] harder, and easier... You have noticed, I expect, that Christ Himself sometimes describes the Christian way as very hard, sometimes as very easy. He says, ‘Take up your Cross’—in other words, it is like going to be beaten to death in a concentration camp. Next minute he says, ‘My yoke is easy and my burden light.’ He means both.” -C.S. Lewis*

### **Review verses Romans 6:4, 13-14, 7:4, 8:12-13**

*“The hard work of the Christian life is \_\_\_\_\_ with what God has already given us in our baptisms.”*

In Romans chapters 12-16, Paul is simply describing what it looks like to live out our baptisms in the here and now—i.e. to live the new in the old.

### **Read Romans 12:1**

When you see the word “therefore” in Scripture, always ask, “\_\_\_\_\_ for?”

What do you think it means to present your body as a “living sacrifice” to God?

What are thoughts on the C.S. Lewis quote to the right?

What do you think Paul means when he says that presenting our bodies to God as a living sacrifice is our “spiritual (or genuine) act of worship?”

*“Christ says ‘Give me All. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don’t want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked – the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead.’”*

- C.S. Lewis

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### **Read Romans 12:2**

Is there anything that sticks out to you about this verse?

*“The mind and memory, reason and emotion, indeed everything in the Christian life, the inmost and the more outward, from the highest to the lowest, all must be included in this metamorphosis into harmony with the new eon.”*

- Anders Nygren

Paul says we are transformed by the renewal of our mind. In your own words, what is he saying?

How do you think we go about such a task?

### **Application: Conformed or Transformed**

Think about the following aspects of your life. What would they look like conformed to the old eon vs. in line with the new God has given you in your baptism?

- ✚ Time
- ✚ Ambitions
- ✚ Money
- ✚ Ears
- ✚ Eyes
- ✚ Mouth
- ✚ Hands
- ✚ Sexuality
- ✚ Work
- ✚ Relationships
- ✚ Church



In fact, our life together as the church is where Paul finishes off in our Romans passage today. Read 12:3-21 imagining how St. Paul's would change if we lived the new amid the old.