

Next Level Women

Living on the Edge Romans 12: 1-3

Spiritual Disciplines

Romans 12:1-3

NIV

The Message

<p>¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, 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. ² 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.</p> <p>Humble Service in the Body of Christ</p> <p>³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you</p>	<p>¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.</p> <p>³I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.</p>
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Insights:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, 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

Contrast:

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you

Contrast:

Romans 12:vs 1

NIV

The Message

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Insights into what it means to be surrendered:

Main Theme of Chapter4 is what does it look like to live a surrendered life?

1. What do you think is the reason God wants our bodies to be a living sacrifice?
 - a. Offering our bodies is not a way to gain approval. Instead it is what?

2. Do we have to give up our idols to become living sacrifices? Did Abraham have to do that? What idols in your life do you have to give to become a living sacrifice and live a life surrendered?

Next Level Women Redeemed

Living on the Edge Romans 12:1 Chapters 4

Romans 12:vs 1

NIV

The Message

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Insights into what it means to be all in:

Main Theme of Chapter 5 is that you can't serve two masters. We are be willing to tell God that all that we are, all that we have or ever hoped to have is HIS. Being all in is the picture of being a "living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God "

1. When are no all in, we miss out on God's good, acceptable and perfect will for our lives. What are the benefits to us, listed on page 36 and 37 that we receive when we all in?
2. Allowing Him to direct every area of our life requires us to let go. Have you let go? How do you know when you have let go? What was the hardest thing/person/emotion/??? That you have had to let go?
 - a. If you don't think you have gone "all in", what would be your next steps to do this?

Romans 12:vs 2

NIV

The Message

<p>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.</p>	<p>Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.</p>
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Insights into what it means to be all in:

Main Theme of Chapter How do you get the very best from God? In the good times and the difficult times

1. Once we decide to become living sacrifices to God, holy and pleasing – the next step is a spiritual process. And it is a battle.
Who or what is battling against you?

2. What specifically do you battle with? Chip tells us he battles with his thought life and is very susceptible to visually, sexual images. He intentionally looks away and puts captive his thoughts.
What can you do in the midst of your battles?

3. Will God show you his will for your life, even when you still have battles?

Romans 12:vs 2

NIV

The Message

<p>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.</p>	<p>Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.</p>
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Insights into why the Christian life is so difficult:

Main Theme of Chapter 7: Understanding who the enemy is in your Christian Battle?

Don't fool yourself, the enemy in your battle of your spiritual health is Satan. Read John 10:10. We have a choice to ignore him. We are not puppets. We have the power of Christ and victory. But he is working 24/7 to woo you away with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

1. We live in a toxic environment to our spiritual health. What specifically have you found to be toxic to your spiritual health? For instance, what battles do you face that causes you to face failures in your spirit, causes you frustration and despair?

2. Are you disappointed to find that after coming to Christ you are still frustrated to find you can still struggle with sin and temptation? Have you ever found yourself fallen back into sin and felt that God must be so disappointed in you? Read Galatians 5:17

3. Self effort is not the way to battle. What is way to battle?
(Hint: Romans 12:2)

5. What action is commanded in Romans 12:2 that results in transformation?

6. What would you say makes up your mental diet; everthing?

Chapter 10: We are going to make a Covenant with God today!

Radical, self-sacrificing love for one another

Lifestyles of holiness and moral purity winsomely lived out with no air of self-righteousness or legalism

How does a person live this out?

1. Chip suggests 3 reasons Christians are not experiencing genuine transformation. (pg 83) What are these? Do any relate to you, or did relate to you?

2. Spiritual growth is not performance oriented but relational. Chip lists what spiritual growth is NOT and what IT IS (pg 83) It starts with our mind. Romans 12:2 – renewing of your mind. What does that mean to you and how do you see it living out in your life?

3. Do you have an experience where God led you to rethink an issue from a “me perspective” to “how the other would feel”? Pg 87: Think differently, think with God’s perspective and think in a way that focuses on relationship with Christ and not rules or external behavior.

4. 1 John 12:15-17. What are the world's seductions that take our eyes off of Christ? Does any of this appear in your life? What does a 'media fast' look like to you and do you think you could/should do this? What can you expect to reap from this fast?

Inspire Covenant : I _____, promise to participate in a media fast for 4 days. September 6, 7, 8 & 9

In it's place I will:

1. Hear God's Word Romans 10:17
2. Read God's Word Rev 1:3
3. Study God's Word 2 Timothy 2:15
4. Memorize God's Word Romans 12: 1-5
5. Meditate on God's Word Joshua 1:8 go to www.livingontheedge.org and listen to some of Chip's messages.

Sober in Self Assessment: How to discover the real you.

Read Romans 12: 3-8

1. How would you be defined, as a person, by: (social chameleon)
 - a. Your mom and dad
 - b. Your husband or boyfriend
 - c. Your BFF
 - d. Your boss
 - e. Your coworkers
 - f. Your members of NLW or a small group

Can you see how all these different people define you? Do you live according to their definition when you are around them? Do you have a clear sense of "self" and do you think you live it out?

Read Romans 12:3

2. What are the top events that have shaped you as? And show you a view into yourself

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Living on the Edge Chapter 11 & 12

July 21, 2012

4. It is impossible to have a relationship with God – without His help. We are asked to stop hiding, face our insecurities and stop the blame shifting tendencies. This all equates to the misguided thought:

5. How can a person 'die to self' 'surrender' go 'all in' if they are working to **get it** or feeling too insecure to **get it**? Isn't it exhausting? Wouldn't it be great to have another way than for us to do all the impossible work to **get it**
 - a. First we have to stop doing the all the doing. How in your life can you apply this principle? How have you seen it play out in your life?
 - b. How does knowing that everyone is deep down insecure (from the Fall) how does that make you feel now in your interactions with others? Is it a sort of leveling the field?
6. We are to find our security in Christ. How?

FINAL THOUGHT: And the more we find our security in Christ the more of the real you will be present every day.

4. Do you describe yourself by “what you do” for the Church or for God? Pg 123 tells us that we are already pleasing to God and we don’t have to “perform” to be pleasing. How does this relate to what you think God thinks of you?

The Five Cards are designed to help us get a better understanding of who we are to God, and not by messages we have absorbed from people or experiences we have lived through. Pg 125 – 127

Which of these spoke to you?

Appearance
Belongingness
Worthiness
Security
Competence

5. What happens when you get an accurate view of yourself? Why is it so important? How does that impact those around you, and yourself?

10. What does Chip tell us to watch out for? Pg 136

a. What is the unfortunate outcome when we do this?

11. Your strengths & weaknesses. We do this exercise to see where we belong in God's plan and also where we need to ask for help and guidance from the Body.

My Top 3 Strengths	My Top 3 Weaknesses
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Final Thought:

Identity issues begin with an accurate view of ourselves
Security issues are addressed when we discover where we belong
Significance issues are resolved as we contemplate what we are designed by God to do.

Read Romans 12: 3-5 tells us about who we are and where we belong
Romans 6-8 tells us our focus, direction, purpose
Chapter 15: Your Purpose

1. What are we supposed to do? Pg 146 answer is:

fulfilling this command will look different at different times in your life

2. What is your purpose for God's Kingdom?
3. Read Eph 4:7-10. What insight and facts are you given here?
 - a. What does knowing your spiritual gift/s set you up for?
4. What is your spiritual gift/s? How does this align with your desires, passions and ability to further God's Kingdom?
5. We are often asked by Church to do things, join groups, help out here and there. How do you discern where and what you want to do?

Living on the Edge 15 & 16

a. Have you ever said yes and when you got there it didn't fit? Why do you think it didn't?

b. And if it did fit, how did that feel?

6. What is your purpose for God's Kingdom?

We are to look at ourselves with sober judgment to do a sober self assessment to discover what you are to do for God's Kingdom, here on earth. We are to stop pursuing self-fulfillment, self-actualization, and success in this world..... It's not easy to see ourselves as God does, but we need to risk and love and let others see the real us using our spiritual gift (that is a supernatural gift from God) so that we can do the 'good work' God has planned for us.

Chapter 16: Read Romans 12: 9-13 Authentic Community

7. Read John 13:34-35 Why do you think this is our greatest commandment? Pg 157 & 158 Read John 17: 20-24

a. What does your 'witness' to the world have to do with their salvation?

b. What does another person's witness had to do with your receiving Jesus as your Savior?

8. Is there anything, system, occupation, trial, event, feeling, emotion, crisis..... – that gets in your way of having authentic community with other Christians?

9. OR are you in an authentic community?
 - a. Is NLW providing this for you? If not, how can we better do what Jesus called us and His disciples to do – meeting the real needs of each other for the right reason and in the right way. To share the love of Christ and exchange with vulnerability, sacrifice and devotion.

Read Romans 12: 3-5 tells us about who we are and where we belong
Romans 12: 6-8 tells us our focus, direction, purpose. And Romans 12: 9-13 tells us that God needs us, authentic, clean, forgiven, just as we need each other.

Chapter 17: Why is God so serious about your authenticity?

1. Why is God so serious? How serious was this displayed in Acts 5?

2. What does it take for authentic community to happen? Pg 166

vs 9

vs 10

vs 11

vs 12-13

From these verses, summarize how we are to love

3. Dictionary Time:

a. Authentic

b. Purity

c. Fervent

d. Devoted

4. Any new insight into our summary of how we are to love?

5. To be authentic and for us to remove our masks, what is it we need to do?
Pg 168. Do you have a mask?
 - a. When and where do you wear it? Why?

6. What does the story in Acts 5:1-11 tell us about being real and not hiding with a mask?

7. Introspection Time! Pg 173. How close to purity and righteousness can you be? Are you walking in honesty and integrity as much as you can be aware? Are there times when you just are not meeting vs 9-13? Is there a hidden sin or idol in your life that clouds your ability to come into the light and not hide?

Chapter 18: Are you building relationships that will last a lifetime?

When by God's grace we move out of our comfort zone and love others in ways that require time, energy, sacrifice, there's a payoff that no amount of money can equal

1. Pg 179 – What we learned was that God is eager to act powerfully on our behalf when our motive is to meet the real needs of fellow Christ-followers. Can you relate? Do you have any experience in this?

- a. Read Philippians 2: 6-8

2. How does Chip explain authentic community: (pg 179)

Vs 10: Dictionary Time:

- a. Devotion

- b. Humility

3. What does brotherly love mean? Pg 181

4. Being devoted to one another and giving preference to one another is all about the real you showing and meeting real needs. Was there a time when another person showed you their "real" side, what happened?

- a. What are some of the times where your real side showed up? What happened?

Final Thought: Who comes to mind when you think of someone who has honored you and been devoted to you? What person or situation are you aware of that would qualify as a real need? Who is hurting who needs help?

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Living on the Edge Chapter 18, 19 & 20

5. Who comes to mind when you think of someone who has honored you and been devoted to you? What person or situation are you aware of that would qualify as a real need? Who is hurting who needs help?

Chapter 19: What's keeping you from experiencing authentic community?

1. Have you experienced authentic community, where a ministry or a group is on fire, where people genuinely love one another and 'self' is taken out of the equation? What was that all about?
 - a. Have you experienced the opposite? Where the ministry or group fizzles or becomes superficial? What was that all about?
2. What is a people pleaser? How can you identify that in yourself?
3. What is the definition of love as Christ defines it? (pg196)
 - a. We read a book called "Louder than Words" by Andy Stanley. Can you remember that definition of having the "character of Christ"?
 - b. How are these two; love and Christ's character similar?
4. What is to be our motive when we meet the real needs of others?

Chapter 20: Where's your focus?

1. How does Romans 12:1 relate to Christ's definition of love? What is sacrificial love?

2. What has to be removed from your motives when you have an upward and outward focus? Do you remember the first line of Rick Warren's book "the Purpose Driven Life"?

3. Can we achieve this kind of sacrificial love on our own? How do we get there?

4. What is your idea of happiness and how you we get it?
 - a. What is your idea of joy and how do you get it? Can you have God's joy when you are in the middle of problems and trials? Have you had this?

 - b. What is the most important difference between the two?

5. How do you get to a point of loving as Jesus loves and be a part of an authentic community when we know we can't accomplish it by our strength?

6. For you today, in what specific circumstance do you need an upward focus?

Next Level Women Inspire

Living on the Edge Chapter 18, 19 & 20

Chapters 21 & 22

Read Romans 12: 14-21

We've talked about what it looks like for an authentic follower in her relationship with God, the world, themselves, with believers.

Now we are going to talk about our relationship with those who are opposed to Christ and do evil stuff.

1. How are we expected to respond to our enemies?
What does it look like to allow the Holy Spirit to give us grace to those who are just plain wrong!

2. Who are you thinking about right now, that was just plain wrong, evil, mean, misguided? What is your relationship like? How would you like your relationship to be?

3. Can God remove bitterness and hate from you? How? Have you seen this happen? How did it happen?

4. What is Christ telling us in Romans 12: 14-16? Put it in your own words.
Name specific actions, things you can do based on this instruction.

5. What is Christ telling us in Romans 12: 17-20? Put it in your own words
Name specific actions, things you can do based on this instruction.

Write out the opposite of verses 14-20

Chapter 23

6. We are never more like Jesus than when we treat people in a way that they do not deserve. But there are some guidelines....
 - a. Don't barge in
 - b. Let them open the door
 - c. Establish boundaries, may have to be in a letter or phone or email, not in person
 - d. Eliminate any self righteous tone or haughty or arrogant tone
 - e. Instead operate entirely from a humble position
 - f. Always – first ask God to show you His way

7. What can we learn from how Joseph reacted to his family when he was a ruler of Egypt?

Chapter 24

8. Read Romans 12: 17-19. What does God say about us taking our own revenge? And what instructions does He give us?

9. Are you a “justice junkie”? What is that like? What conflicts has that caused? What is a time you let God do His thing, instead of you? What was that like?

Chapter 25

10. What is the one big thing that can change when you apply what we have learned from Romans 12: 17-21?

Final Thought: Loving people who don't deserve to be loved in a way they don't deserve or expect can break through the hardest hearts and demonstrate the reality of the living God like nothing else. And we do this so that everyone we come in contact with will live eternally in the Kingdom of God!