

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

*“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .*

*And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”*

# Let's Worship God

1st-6th July 2013  
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?  
*Romans 8:32*

**reading** Romans 11:33-36 - The Wisdom of God

**notes** Paul knows and understands a lot about God and His plans and purposes, but even he humbly acknowledges that there is much he doesn't know. God's wisdom is deep. We can't fully understand His mind and His purposes. But God's wisdom is not just deep, it is rich and valuable. He sees and knows all things - all that was, all that is, and all that will be. This is His knowledge. He rules and orders all things, directing them to His own glory, and accomplishing His own purposes. This is His wisdom. We don't always know the reason why God does what He does. All we can know about God is what He has revealed to us in His Word. To try to second-guess God or figure out what He hasn't told us is foolish and futile. We should be thankful for what He has revealed about Himself, and trust Him for what we don't know. In 1 Corinthians 2:16 Paul writes, 'For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. Through Christ true believers know as much of God as they need to know. Christ has declared Him to us. And we can trust that God does not need us to understand everything or advise Him on anything in order to do what's best.'

God is a free agent, He does what He wills, because He wills, and He does not need to answer to anyone. He is no man's debtor. We don't give anything to God that He needs when we obey Him, we just do what we are created to do, our duty. God is not bound to do anything for us. He has created and rules over everything for His glory in heaven and on earth. To do all to the glory of God is to make a virtue of necessity; for all shall in the end glorify God whether we want it to or not.

**questions**

1. Where does God reveal Himself to us?
2. What should we do when we don't understand why something is happening?

**praise**  
**pray** Ps. 58:7-11

1. Give thanks for God's knowledge and wisdom.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Romans 12:14-18 - Sympathy, Pride, and Peace

**notes** Paul is laying out the love we should have for our fellow Christians. It should be a sympathising love (v.15). True love gives us an interest in the sorrows and joys of one another and teaches us to make them our own. We are not to envy those that prosper, but rejoice with them; truly glad that others have the success and comfort which we don't. We are not to despise those that are in trouble but be concerned for them and ready to help them. Our love should be united (v.16); we should work to agree with each other, but where we don't, we should still treat the other person with love and honour. This is to love our brothers as ourselves, desiring their good as much as our own. Our love is to be humble (v.16). When Jesus washed the disciples' feet He taught us that to love one another we must be willing to stoop to the most menial tasks to show kindness to another. We are not to be haughty or scornful of other Christians, or to have a high opinion of our own wisdom. Remember all that we are is because of what Christ has done and is doing for us, so there is no room for pride. We should have a love that strives as much as possible to live peaceably with all men (v.18). We should not give others reason to quarrel with us, and we should be unrevenged, not taking opportunity to quarrel with them. But notice that Paul says, 'If possible'. It is not possible to preserve the peace when we cannot do so without offending God and going against our conscience. The wisdom that is from above is first pure then peaceable. Peace without purity is the peace of the devil. Paul also says, 'so far as it depends on you'. We can but speak for ourselves. We can't help what others do, our responsibility is to make sure that we are doing what is right.

**questions**

1. How should we treat others' joys and sorrows?
2. What kind of peace should we strive to have?

**praise**  
**pray** Ps. 61A:all

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Romans 12:6-13 - Love to Others

**notes** God, in His grace, has given to those in the church specific and different gifts and the desire to exercise those gifts. Prophecy refers to the preaching of the Word in which men and women are told what eternity will be like. This preaching must be done from a heart that truly believes the Word, and it must be faithful to the Word. While some of the gifts listed here are specific to the leaders of the church - minister, elders, and deacons - others can be applied to any member of the congregation. The point is that the gifts that God has given must be exercised, and they must be exercised in faithfulness to His Word, diligently, generously, cheerfully, and in love for others.

This leads on to Paul discussing our duty to others. It is summed up in one word - love, and so Paul mentions this first. Love must be genuine, not a pretence but a reality (v.9). There is a love we owe to our friends and to our enemies, and Paul deals with both. To our friends, our fellow Christians, we should show an affectionate love, a readiness and a willingness to love, natural, kind, unforced, and unconstrained (v.10). Our love should be respectful (v.10). Instead of competing for superiority, we should be quick to give others honour. We should be more likely to notice the gifts, graces, and actions of our brothers and value them accordingly, than to notice our own, more forward to praise another, and more pleased to hear another praised, than ourselves. Our love should be generous (v.13). We should be ready, as we have ability and opportunity, to help anyone who needs it, but especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. We can talk about being loving all day, but if we see an opportunity to help, and we have the ability to help, and we do nothing, our words are a lie.

**questions**

1. How should we use God's gifts?
2. How should we love our fellow Christians?

**praise** Ps. 60:all  
**pray**

1. Pray that the Lord would increase your love for others.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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**Verse To Learn**  
He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?  
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**reading** Romans 12:1-3 - A Living Sacrifice

**notes** Saving faith isn't just something we know in our head, it is practical, it affects our hearts and our lives. How we live is built on the foundation of what we know and believe. We must first understand who Christ is and what He has done before we can understand how to walk as His follower. Paul has explained the gospel, and now he moves on to show how this should affect our lives. That is why verse 1 has the word therefore in it. Because of what you have believed and know about God, live in this way.

Paul first deals with our duty to God. Paul pleads with us as his brothers and sisters in Christ to present our bodies, our whole selves, as a living sacrifice. Christ, who was sacrificed to bear the sins of many, is the only sacrifice of atonement; but ourselves and our actions, given to God through Christ our priest, are sacrifices that acknowledge God's grace. It is a free-will offering, a voluntary act. Presenting the body to God implies not only avoiding the sins committed with or against the body, but the using of the body in the service of God. It is to glorify God with our bodies and to be willing to suffer for God with our bodies. A body sincerely devoted to God is a living sacrifice, set apart for God and put to holy use.

We present our bodies as living sacrifices first because God is a merciful God. He cares for us every moment of every day, and He has shown mercy to us by saving us from the punishment we deserve. How can we remember this mercy without giving to God all we are, all we have, and all we can do? Secondly, presenting our bodies to God as a living sacrifice is acceptable to God. It pleases Him when we serve Him wholeheartedly. Thirdly, that sacrifice is only acceptable to God which is according to His Word. It must be spiritual worship. We can not pick and choose how we sacrifice to God, He has told us what He wants, and He wants it all.

**questions**

1. What affect should our faith have on our life?
2. How do we present our bodies a living sacrifice?

**praise** Ps. 59:1-6  
**pray**

1. Pray that you would present your body a living sacrifice.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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## Verse To Learn

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**reading** Romans 12:1-12 - Renewing Our Minds

**notes** Our minds should be renewed for God. There should be new desires, new understandings, and new thoughts. How we think affects what we do, so when our mind is renewed, our whole selves are renewed. Sanctification, dying to sin more and more and living to righteousness more and more, is the carrying on of this renewing work until it is perfected in heaven. Though this is God's work, we are to use the means He has provided. What are these means? The preaching of the Word, the reading of the Word, prayer, and the sacraments. The great enemy to renewing our minds is conformity to this world. We are not to think the way the world thinks, we are not to act the way the world acts, we are not to be motivated by the world. The goal of renewing our minds is to understand and do the will of God. God's will is revealed to us in His Word. It is good in itself, and it is good for us. It is acceptable, it is pleasing to God, it is how God wants us to live. It is perfect, nothing can be added to it. It is our rule for faith and life - it tells us what to believe and how to act.

The end result of presenting our bodies to God and renewing our minds is to serve God in obedience (v.11). We are not to be slothful or lazy in serving the Lord. We should love it, and it should be our priority. We should be fervent in spirit - serving God not half-heartedly but with our whole heart and soul. We must rejoice in hope - trusting in God and His plans and purposes. We must be patient in tribulation. God calls us not just to work for Him, but sometimes to sit quietly when we suffer. This goes along with rejoicing in hope, because only when we trust in God and hope in Him, can we be patient in our circumstances. Finally, we are to be constant in prayer. Prayer is a friend to hope and patience and is one of the means God has provided to give us the strength to be obedient.

**questions**

1. What are the means God has provided for renewing our minds?
2. How should we serve the Lord?

**praise pray** Ps. 59:7-12

1. Pray that you would make good use of the means God has given you.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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## Verse To Learn

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?  
*Romans 8:32*

**reading** Romans 12:3-8 - Pride

**notes** Paul now deals with our duty towards ourselves. Pride is a sin that we all have, and we need to be warned against it and prepared for it. We should not have too high an opinion of ourselves, our abilities, our wisdom, or our actions. Why? First, because everything good that we have or are comes from God. The best and most useful man in the world is no more, no better, than what the free grace of God makes him every day. When we are thinking of ourselves, we need to think how kind God has been to us, for it is He that gives us power to do anything good. Secondly, there are limits to the gifts and abilities God has given us. Thirdly, God has dealt out gifts to others as well as to us. We don't have a monopoly of the Holy Spirit or of gifts and abilities. It's wrong to lift ourselves up and despise others as if we are the only ones God favours and wisdom will die with us.

All Christians make up one body in Christ, who is the head of the body, and the centre of their unity. We must remember that we are not the whole, just parts or members. We do not all have the same job. Some are called and equipped for some things, others for other things for the good of the whole. We are not only members of Christ, but we are members of one another. Therefore, we need to put pride to death, because whatever we have, we have received it, and not for ourselves but for the good of others.

As we must not on the one hand be proud of our gifts, so on the other hand we must not bury them. Be careful that you are not, under a pretence of humility and unselfishness, just being lazy about working for the good of others. We must not say, I am nothing, therefore I will sit still and do nothing; but, I am nothing in myself, and therefore I will lay out myself to the utmost in the strength of the grace of Christ.

**questions**

1. Why should we put pride to death?
2. For what do we use the gifts that God has given us?

**praise pray** Ps. 59:13-16

1. Pray that you would put pride to death in your life.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.