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# ***THE BOOK OF ROMANS pt. 2: The Hardest Thing I Will Ever Do***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, August 27, 2017*

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” ***Romans 12:1–2, ESV***

“You yourselves used to be in the darkness, but since you have become the Lord’s people, you are in the light. So you must live like people who belong to the light, for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of

every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth.”  
***Ephesians 5:8–9, GNB***

God Takes Us as We Are – In Order to  
Transform Us into What He Wants Us to Be

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world,  
but that you keep them from the evil one. They are  
not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

***John 17:15–16, ESV***

Believers Live in Tension of What Was and What Is

The Hardest Thing I Am Called to Do Is to  
Separate and Yet Participate

**What Would This Look Like in My Life?**

## 1. Jesus Is Our Example

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” *John 1:14, ESV*

“He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.” *John 1:11, ESV*

Jesus Lived Different Because He Knew He Was Different

## 2. I Must Choose Which Kingdom I Belong To

“Jesus said, “My kingdom does not belong to this world... No, my kingdom does not belong here!”  
*John 18:36, GNB*

“If you belonged to the world, then the world would love you as its own. But I chose you from this world, and you do not belong to it; that is why the world hates you.” **John 15:19, GNB**

## All Choices Have Consequences

“Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father. Everything that belongs to the world—what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world. The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live for ever.” **1 John 2:15–17, GNB**

If I Am Denying the World, It's Because  
I Choose to Have More of Jesus

### 3. I Choose to Live a Surrendered Life

<sup>1</sup>“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

“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...” *Romans 12:1, MSG*

Confusion and Anxiety Are Generally  
Signs of Something(s) Un-Surrendered

What Is God Asking Me to Surrender That  
I Won't Let Go of?

#### 4. I Must Have On-Going Processes of Transformation

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” ***Romans 12:2, NLT***

The Spirit Cannot Transform My Mind If I  
Withhold Mind Time from Him