

Growing a God-Centered Community

Romans 11:33-12:2 ▪ June 21, 2026 ▪ Nick Braitto

A God-centered community delights to _____ our God. (11:33-36)

A God-centered community delights to _____ to our God. (12:1)

A God-centered community delights to be _____ by our God. (12:2)

Romans 11:33-12:2

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

^{12:1} 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. ² 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. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What in your life tends to steer how and why you do what you do? What used to steer you that no longer does?

Read and Discuss: Romans 11:33-12:2

1. After spending 11 chapters unfolding deep theological truths, Paul turns to worship (vs. 33-36). What stands out to you in Paul's doxology? What do you think prompted these lines of praise?
2. Why do you think Paul encourages the church to behold—to gaze upon and delight in—God before he calls them to *do* anything? What practices help a church behold God *together*? How does doing these things together shape the culture of a community?
3. If someone asked, "What makes a church God-centered?", how would Romans 11:33–36 help you answer? How would a God-centered church differ from a church centered on other things?
4. Paul urges believers to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice" (12:1). What does this image communicate about the nature of what God expects of His people? Although "bodies" is plural, "living sacrifice" is singular. How do our shared lives together serve as a single act of worship? How do our lives together act as a witness to our community of God's glory?
5. Why do you think Paul connects our surrender to God's "mercies" (12:1)? How does seeing and reflecting on God's mercy help make our surrender an act of love, joy, and trust rather than an act of fear, duty, or obligation?
6. Paul contrasts being "conformed to this world" with being "transformed by the renewal of your mind" (12:2). What are some ways our world tries to shape us? Which of these pressures do you personally feel most intensely? What helps you resist them? How does Christian community help you with this?
7. According to 12:2, transformation is something God does *to* us as we offer ourselves to Him. How have you experienced God reshaping your thinking, desires, or priorities? In this process, how would you describe our role—and God's role?
8. **Read Colossians 3:16-17.** What does it mean for God's Word to dwell richly among a church, not just within individuals? How is being a member of a biblical community different from merely having Christian friends? In what practical ways can our group help one another think more biblically? How would it approach conflict, decisions, mission, and relationships differently?

Apply: Which movement of this passage do you sense God inviting you into right now—beholding Him more deeply, surrendering more fully, or opening yourself to His transforming work? What is one step you can take this week to grow as part of a God-centered community?

Pray: Pray that God would make us a community that beholds His greatness, surrenders to His mercy, and is continually transformed by His Spirit—so that we might know, love, and share Jesus with joy.