



**WHEN  
DIFFERENT  
IS BETTER**

## Part 2: A Different Perspective on What Matters

Guest Speaker: Mark Buchanan

### APPETIZER

1. Paul's "Therefore" in Romans 12:1 builds on two earlier "Therefore's" in Romans, where he describes the nature of God's mercy toward us:
  - "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." — **Romans 5:1-2**
  - "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." — **Romans 8:1-2**
2. Living a life of worship and obedience is never an obligation or duty — it is, rather, the way we live out the freedom for which we've been set free. We are no longer captives!

### DINE IN

1. Our freedom takes two forms - saying **yes** and saying **no**. Both are necessary to fully experience the life of freedom.
2. Both the **yes** and the **no** are doorways to living in the Kingdom of God — living eternity now.
3. The rest of **Romans 12** tells us the shape such living takes.
  - Radical Generosity
  - Radical Hospitality
  - Radical Kindness

### TAKE OUT

1. How will living eternity now turn the world on its head?



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## Home Church Notes

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic / Starting Conversations]

1. What is one thing that struck you from this week's teaching?
2. What pressures do you feel — at your work, in your home, at your school, in your life — to just fit in, be like everyone else?
3. How do you manage these pressures? Where do you tend to give in and where do you tend to resist or reject the pressure?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

4. Read the entire chapter of **Romans 12** (in two or three versions if possible).
  - a. At the heart of following Christ is a grace-inspired, Spirit-empowered "yes" and "no." According to verses 1 and 2, what are we to say "yes" to? What are we to say "no" to. How do these first two verses, and the "yes" and the "no" they teach, prepare us for the life described in the rest of Romans 12?
  - b. Based on your experience, what do you think are the "patterns of this world"? In what way does a Romans 12 lifestyle defy and subvert the "patterns of this world"?
  - c. Where in your life right now do you need to say a grace-inspired, Spirit-empowered "yes" and "no"?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

5. What specific steps will you take this week to "not be conformed any longer to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind"?
6. How can this huddle or home church support you taking these steps?
7. Pray for each other and for God to enable you to take these steps this week.

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