

**Sermon Discussion Questions, May 23, 2010, Dr. Rod MacIlvaine,  
*Three Crucial Relationships in Spiritual Growth,*  
Romans 11:33-12:2**

1. Do you think it is more important to feel something for God or to know something about God? Explain your answer.
2. Read Romans 11:33-36. How would you describe Paul's words in these verses? Overall, how do you think Paul views God? What is stirred within you when you read v.33a? What attributes of God do you grasp intellectually from these verses?
3. Do you think you can know God in a personal way? How? Based on these verses, how should growing Christians feel toward God and what should they know about God? Why is it important to engage both your heart and mind when thinking about God?
4. What is the tone of Paul's words and to whom is he speaking in Romans 12:1? What is the command? Keep in mind the context of the verses in 11:33-36, how does the right view of God affect true spiritual growth?
5. What are the two commands in Romans 12:2? Define the word "world." What does scripture say about the world? How is the world influencing the Christian culture today?

James 1:27

James 4:4

1 John 2:15-17

6. According to Romans 12:2, how do we avoid conformity to the world? Who is responsible for transformation in your life? How does a Christ follower move toward spiritual growth? What is the promised result of renewing your mind? How have you experienced this promise personally?
7. Think of the Old Testament blood sacrifices. What parallels do you see in the way we should offer ourselves as living sacrifices? How often should we offer ourselves? How does God view sacrifices? Leviticus 17:6
8. The verses this week address three crucial relationships in spiritual growth; our relationship with God, the secular world, and our own bodies. Honestly and prayerfully assess your life. Where is the world squeezing you into its mold? How do you think God sees your life? What practical steps will you take today in order to begin the process of spiritual transformation?