

Romans 12

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

In View of God's mercies

- Justification from the guilt and penalty of sin.
- Adoption in Jesus and identification with Christ.
- Placed under grace, not law.
- Giving the Holy Spirit to live within.
- Promise of help in all affliction.
- Assurance of a standing in God's election.
- Confidence of coming glory.
- Confidence of no separation from the love of God.
- Confidence in God's continued faithfulness.

...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

Q. Living Sacrifice? Many men claim they would die for Christ but His Word is asking us to live for Him.

Q. How does this look?

This is true and proper worship.

Worship is not a song well sung; rather a life well lived.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

“I don't want to be conformed to this world. I want to be transformed. How do I do it?” **By the renewing of your mind.** The problem with many Christians is they live life based on *feelings*, or they are only concerned about *doing*.” (David Guzik.)

The world conforms people, religion reforms people; only God transforms people, through his word. Q. How does God's Word transform men?

Good, pleasing and perfect will. After viewing God's Mercies to us and presenting our lives to Him and allowing the Word of God to shape our thinking and in turn our lives we will live different and find ourselves in the will of God.

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Before Paul talks about Spiritual gifts, he warns believers not to be arrogant. Spiritual gifts do not equate to spiritual maturity. Sober judgment reminds us that we are all saved by the gift of grace, freely given us in Christ Jesus.

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The body of Christ is given many gifts so that all the needs are met.

They do not all have the same function. We all have different gifts, thank God.

We are one body. Unity with others is expected and natural.

We belong to each other. The gifts God has given you are for the edification and spiritual maturity of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

We have different gifts according to grace (not earned or learned) certainly we exercise our gift but we realize not all men have all gifts. We can learn skills not gifts.

Prophecy. Declare God's Word

Service. Serving others behind the scenes usually.

Teaching. Teaching God's word.

Encouragement. Building others up.

Giving. Financial giving is primarily the thought here.

Leadership. Lead people, organizations, etc.

Mercy. Showing mercy to people.

These are supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit not learned skills or taught characteristics.

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Love is an action not a feeling. Genuine love reaches out to people. Much in our society today masquerades as love but in reality, is leveraging people to get something.

Hate what is evil. Allow God to reshape your mind. Hate what he hates and love what he loves.

10 *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

Put OTHERS first! What a thought. How many of our problems in life would be eliminated if we did this? You will never find better marriage and family advice than this.

11 *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

Don't get tired. Keep on keeping on.

12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

14 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

God hates arrogance. Q. Define arrogance?

17 *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

This is all defining the "Transformed Life"

20 *On the contrary:*

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.*

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Burning coals?