

**Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.***

The Greek word for beseech is parakaleō and means to beg. Paul is begging the readers to present their bodies to do something.

Paul had just concluded that Jesus is the center of all, therefore we should present our bodies as a living sacrifice which is something that should be expected. Our spirits are complete but our bodies need to be brought under subjection of our spirits (1 Cor 9:27). This is not a one-time commitment but is something we must constantly do. It is not from a position of work but a position of rest.

**Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

The part of us that is the control factor and determines if we win or lose in life is our soul. This verse says that transformation comes through renewing our mind. The word renewing in Greek is anakainōsis and means to renovate or completely change for the better. A believer has to renovate their mind from the patterns and behaviors that the old man left behind. The moment the trash collector comes to take the trash, they never return with the trash. The old man was trash and is dead and has no business coming back.

What should we be renewing our minds too? The new man that Paul discussed in Romans chapter five and eight. The entire Christian walk revolves around a believer renewing their mind to the new man and who they are in Christ.

The Greek word for transformed is metamorphoō and means to change into another form. The same way a caterpillar goes from the ground and transforms to a butterfly into soaring high is the same when a believer renews their mind that then they transform from a victim to a victor (Eph 4:23).

Many Christians do not know what happens when they got born again, which is why much of the church is defeated today. The word conform in Greek is suschematizo and means to the same pattern. The worlds ways are opposite of a believers (Jn 15:19).

**Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.***

Grace is given, it cannot be earned.

This verse in the King James Version says that every man has been given the measure of faith. That measure is God's measure that Paul said he was living by (Gal 2:20) and that Peter said he had (2 Peter 1:1). Faith is a fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22) that is already present inside every believer. God does not distribute a large amount to some and a teaspoon to others (Rom 2:11).

We have to use our faith and put it to work like a tool. Jesus spoke about putting our faith to work in Luke 17:5-9.

**Romans 12:4 *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,***

The body Paul is referring to here is the body of Christ and he uses an illustration of a physical body to show how one body has different parts with different functions. There are seven "motivational gifts" that the Lord distributes to members within the body of Christ. There is a grace that is offered to all which is salvation (Titus 2:11). This is a grace distributed to the individual as the Lord wills.

**Romans 12:5 *so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.***

Anyone who has put faith in Jesus is a part of His body but have varying functions within the body (1 Cor 12:13). This is similar to a staff on a football team. All have the same purpose and common goal but there are different roles that each member of the staff plays. Many people believe the only role for a Christian is to be a pastor but ministry goes beyond just the five-fold ministry listed in Ephesians 4:11.

**Romans 12:6 *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;***

There are different gifts given to different members of the body of Christ. There are seven gifts listed here. Prophecy is one of the gifts listed. All can prophecy but not all are called to be prophets (Eph 4:11).

**Romans 12:7 *or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;***

Ministry and teaching are part of these motivational gifts. We can all operate in these gifts but this is not everyone's office. We all can minister and teach someone but not everyone is called to be a teacher. The author of Hebrews said by now we should be teachers but he was not saying that all are called to the five-fold ministry to teach (Heb 5:12).

**Romans 12:8 *he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.***

Exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy are also listed in the motivational gifts. Again, we can all give and exhort but some people have a special gift in these areas. There is a well-known pastor in Houston that has a gift of exhortation.

**Romans 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.***

The word abhor in Greek is apostugeo and means to detest utterly or to hate. A believer should hate what is evil. To say we love God but do not hate evil is hypocrisy. God's hate for evil is what drove Him to the cross. We should have the same attitude as our Father (Eph 5:1).

The Greek word for cling is kollaō and means to glue together or cement. When we are walking according to our spirit man identical to Jesus there is no flow that can produce other than what is good. We should be so glued and attached to our identity in Christ that anything outside of that is uncomfortable.

**Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;***

The word love in the previous verse is agape in Greek which is God's kind of love that is putting others well-being before our own. God did not come down to get anything from us, but to give everything of Himself to us. God's love is not conditional like the world's kind of love.

Are we preferring others above ourselves? John the Baptist had a ministry before Jesus stepped on the scene and could have become offended that people were gravitating toward Jesus but he understood his calling and purpose and was content with someone else coming in that was greater.

**Romans 12:11 *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;***

These next few verses are describing the behavior and lifestyle of a Christian. Slothful is a form of laziness and fervent in Greek is zeo and means to be hot. Most Christians are undercover and many of our neighbors would not even know we believe in Jesus because our lifestyles do not reflect it.

Jesus was about His Father's business (Lk 2:49) and we too should not be slothful concerning the things of God. There are some Christians that are hot for God but there is a difference in being hot and boiling.

**Romans 12:12 *rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;***

Hope should bring about rejoicing because Biblical hope is based off a positive expectation. Philippians 4:8 shows us where Paul's mind was when he was in prison and in this same letter to the church; spoke about rejoicing. Paul's focus was not on his current condition but on preaching the Gospel and finishing his race with joy (Acts 20:24).

Patience is already a fruit of the spirit that we possess (Gal 5:22) and in tribulation or trouble we can outlast the devil every time.

**Romans 12:13 *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.***

The Greek word distributing is *koinōneō* and means to come into communion or fellowship with or to become a sharer. The apostle Paul's letters are primarily half doctrinal and then the other half is practical.

Saints are not catholic statues that certain religious groups need to pray too. Saints are those who are born again and have put faith in the Lord Jesus.

**Romans 12:14 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.***

This verse is the exact message the Jesus preached in Matthew 5:44. This is not a suggestion but a command. A believer should never wonder how to treat someone who persecutes them. Persecution is sign of a believer living Godly. If we are not being persecuted, we are not living Godly (2 Tim 3:16). Jesus said that we should bless, do good, pray and love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).

**Romans 12:15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.***

Christians should show empathy to those around them. The ultimate example of humility is Jesus. One of the shortest verses in the Bible says, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). Jesus was not weeping because Lazar had died and ceased to exist. Jesus was interceding for Lazarus and many times we are in intercessory prayer our hearts are full for those we are interceding for. Jesus understood the magnitude of sin entering the world and His heart was full over the consequences it had produced.

**Romans 12:16 *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.***

Jesus never shied away from the sinner or the outcast. It is important to go by what the Word says and not what we think or feel (2 Cor 5:7). During Jesus' earthly ministry, He said that "He must go through Samaria" (John 4:4). Understanding the setting of this is important to note as Jews and Samaritans did not associate with one another but Jesus had a divine appoint with the Samaritan woman at the well.

**Romans 12:17 *Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.***

If someone treats us wrong, we should not retaliate. Nothing has power unless we give it power. God gets along with us because of who He is not because of who we are. We should have this same mindset towards others as well (Phil 2:5). The lifestyle of a believer is to walk by faith and part of that lifestyle is to allow God to deal with another person.

**Romans 12:18 *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.***

This verse says as it depends on you. We should not point the finger at other people but a good question to ask is what can we agree on? Can we find one thing right with the other person? Some people are reading this are thinking no I cannot find anything right with that person. Well,

focus on what's right with you and God's grace within you and you will be able to live peacefully and respect the other person.

**Romans 12:19 *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.***

The Greek word for avenge is *ekdikeō* and means to protect or defend.

The moment we got born again the Holy Spirit became our advocate or in a sense our defense attorney (Jn 14:16). It would be foolish to go into a court of law with someone that is hired and skilled to advocate for us but we choose to speak on our own behalf and defend ourself. When we stand up to defend ourself, God sits down and allows us but when we sit down, God can then stand up and defend us our behalf.

**Romans 12:20 *Therefore "of your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."***

This is a quotation taken from Proverb 25:21-22.

These things do not come naturally but can be released when we plug into who we are in Christ and walk in the spirit. This verse is not saying that if you do good to someone than bad will happen to them and it is God's wrath coming upon them. This is saying to treat others with Godly love and the Lord will convict them.

Before we were born again, we all had a lifetime subscription of defending ourself. The moment we put faith in Jesus; He canceled that subscription and we now have an advocate who will defend us (Jn 14:16). Again, in a court of law, there is a defense attorney to speak on behalf of the person they are defending. It would be foolish to defend ourself when someone is hired and trained to do.

**Romans 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

Love is a powerful force. That is what drove Jesus to the cross. His Fathers love for Him and God's love for His people (Jn 3:16, 17:26).