

Romans 12

I. Intro:

Chapters 1-11: Orthodoxy

Chapter 12: Orthopraxy

II. Being a Living Sacrifice

A. 12:1 *Therefore...*

The biggest transition in Romans

B. 12:1 *...brothers and sisters...*

1. Family talk

2. The enemy's tactic to not think of ourselves as this

C. 12:1 *...in view of the mercies of God...*

1. Summary of the first 11 chapters

2. Romans Road:

Romans 3:23-24 all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory- yet they are justified freely through redemption in Jesus Christ

Romans 5:1 Since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 5:8 God proves His love for us - that while we were sinners Christ died for us

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 8:1 There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Romans 10:9 The message of faith we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

D. Romans 12:1 I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship

1. Necessary theology, knowledge, and doctrine enable the right “view” - the result of these mercies is an urgency to *live by God's mercy* not just receive them

2. “Urge”

a. **Ephesians 4:1** *urging them to walk worthy of the call*

b. **1 Peter 2:11** *urging them as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.*

c. YOU present YOURSELF, YOUR BODY as a living sacrifice

3. Sacrifices to a Jew and Gentile

a. For you to give of yourself came at the cost of another's life, until Jesus

b. Paul has done something here, or he's **undone** something

c. In view of God's mercies, rather than death the sacrifice is now life.

4. What makes it possible for me to be a living sacrifice?

a. **Romans 6:12-13** *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons of unrighteousness. **But as those who are alive from the dead,** offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.*

b. You are alive from the dead because of Christ. This gives greater purpose to your physical body. A sacrifice then was only a body that died as a substitute. Christ died as yours. And now, spiritually you are alive in a way that gives your physical body greater purpose in how it is offered to God! A **living** sacrifice!

c. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

d. **To be a living sacrifice - a noun - is living sacrificially. This phrase is not just a noun, but an adjective and verb. This is describing the actions of the person. The whole of you - heart, mind, soul, and strength alive living sacrificially - the whole of you!**

e. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** *He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.*

5. Why do I have to do this?

a. Reasonable and Rational

- **reasonable it's modest, fair, not excessive. If its rational its logical.**

E. Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

1. Third question: How do I be a living sacrifice?

a. Cannot conform to this age/the world

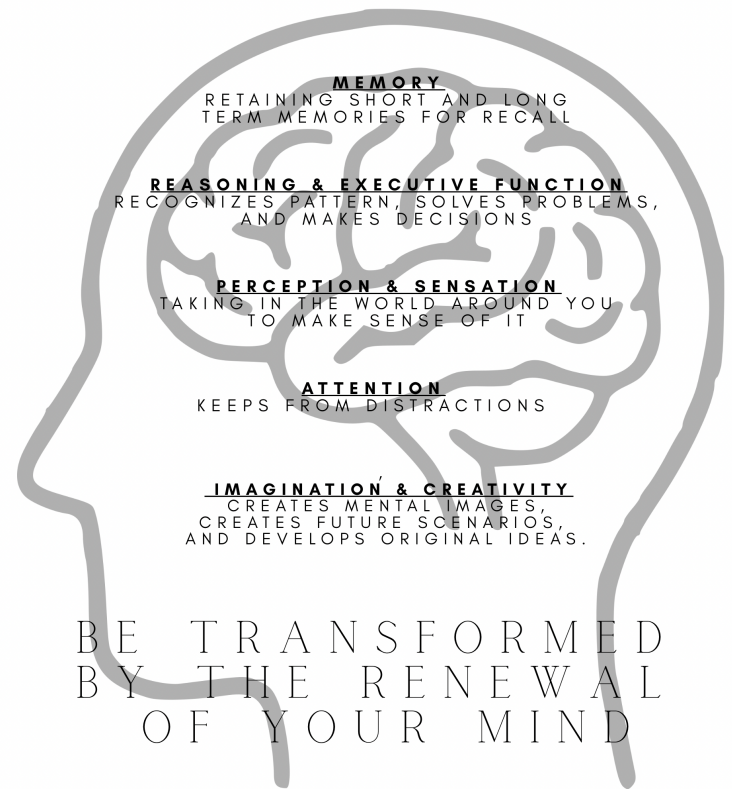
-think back to Romans 1 list of the world

- **1:21** *says for though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude.*

*Instead, their **thinking** became worthless and their senseless hearts were darkened. In **1:28** it says And because they did not **think** it worthwhile to acknowledge God, God delivered them over to a **corrupt mind** so that they do what is not right.*

b. Be transformed - comes by your mind

- c. Renewal of mind
- d. It would be near impossible to have a mind that conforms to the world with a body trying showing up for God's kingdom.



II. Living Sacrificially For His Body

Romans 12:3-8 For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

A. Verse 3 Transition

1. Paul inserts himself, as an example
2. He is an example of what it looks like to think sensibly, not more highly than one should, about oneself. Which comes across CONFIDENTLY.
 - sensibly, you see clearly and respond appropriately, unapologetically.
 - False-humility. False humility is pride. Pride sometimes wants to look humble, but its not. Here we see that Paul has humbly accepted his gift and role in the Body and he lives it - confidently and boldly and unashamed. When you function in your gifts you don't cower, be timid, apologize, or say you aren't qualified. Humility is accepting the grace and faith He bestows on you as true and you live it faithfully as worship to Him with all confidence.

3. Thinking sensibly about ourselves is made possible by the measure of faith God has distributed for you to function in. You function in faith, not in lack, not in skill, not in desire. Faith. Whatever your amount of faith - function with it wholly not partially. Don't look at someone else's capacity and think that is what you should do or put on someone to be like you.
4. We can see that our part in the body is one of many. This means I can't, won't, and don't function alone. ***1 Corinthians 14:12*** - *we have the gifts to edify the Body.* ***Ephesians 4:12*** *gifts build up the body.* When you think on these gifts it is not with you in mind, but with others.
5. We can see that the many parts do not have the same function. The point of the Body of Christ is ONENESS NOT SAMENESS.
 - When we are not functioning in the Body we are more likely to create division rather than unity.

B. The Gifts

Prophecy: this is different than the office of prophet. What this word means mostly is the forthtelling of the Word of God. The gift of prophecy is based in how well, familiar, intimate you know Christ. This is why it says "to use it according to ones measure of faith"

Service: this is the gift of practical service - which is a broad and wide gift that shows the love of Christ in actions that serve others. These people find themselves everywhere.

Teaching: This is different than proclaiming God's Word, teaching focuses on the explanation of God's Word.

Exhortation: This is encouragement. This gift spurs believers on in the joy-filled life of Christ and cannot be done too much - Hebrews 3:13 tells to do this daily

Giving/Sharing: this translated as simple kindness. The reason giving is meant to be simple and full of kindness is embody the joy of giving for the joy of giving. This gift is not just bestowed on the rich - this is a gift any can function in if the Spirit has chosen them.

Leading: Leading is done in eagerness and diligence. most look at this as an up front and seen gift. However, a lot of leading is done behind the scenes. "The first to show up and the last to leave"

Mercy: When mercy has to be shown it is to be done with kindness. You can either forgive in a way that leaves the person feeling worse or free. This gift operates to enable a brother or sister to feel redemption all over again.

Ask yourself these questions:

What is the grace God gave you to function here?

Are you acting in the faith He distributed to you? (Not an idea of faith or someone's else's)

Are you functioning in your part for the sake of the whole?

C. Reiteration and Warnings

-Warning these aren't optional

-Warning we do not own these gifts, we steward them

-Warning against idleness. It's not just recognizing the gift but acting in it.

-Warning that these are not hobbies. These are divine callings on your life

-Warning that these are for the church, not the world

-Warning that watching is not a gift

*this is your reasonable worship as a living sacrifice to the Lord and His will

III. Living Sacrifice Love

Romans 12:9-16 Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another.

A. Commands through the lens of love:

1. Love is genuine - being without hypocrisy
2. Love discerns - by hating what is evil and clinging to what is good
3. Love is affectionate - by devotion to God's family
4. Love honors - it leads in honoring others in God's family
5. Love is enthusiastic - never lacking in zeal, keeping spiritual fervor, and in serving the Lord
6. Love is patient - joyful patience in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful patience in prayer
7. Love is generous - sharing with God's people in need
8. Love is hospitable - this is a love to pursue strangers, not just be available to them
9. Love shows good will - blessing and not cursing
10. Love is sympathetic - it rejoices with others and it weeps with others
11. Love is harmonious - it seeks to live at harmony with others (a like-mindedness, or of one spirit)
12. Love is humble - it is not proud and willing is to associate with people that are different than you

IV. Living Sacrifice Do Not's

Romans 12:16-21. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

A.	Conformed Mind	Renewed Mind
	Proud	Associates with the humble
	Wise in your own eyes	Give careful thought to do what is honorable in the eyes of everyone
	Repays evil for evil	As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone
	Avenges self	Leave room for God's wrath
	Conquered by evil	Conquer evil with good

B. Hot Coals...

This idiom is saying when you conquer evil with good it brings about an inner shame that will sear their conscious. When you obey this command you are providing your enemy with an opportunity to repent.

C. Final Warning

Orthodoxy that doesn't become orthopraxy is the difference between the Pharisee and the disciple. May we be what we believe.

For them and for then:

Paul wrote to remind the believing Jews and Gentiles how their orthodoxy must match their orthopraxy. Paul urged them to offer themselves as living sacrifices to God and in turn, offering themselves to each other.

For us and for always:

Paul's message in Romans 12 should never be separated from the first 11 chapters of doctrine, theology, and knowledge. It is meant to create deep conviction of orthodoxy with a matched conviction of orthopraxy until the Body of Christ is called home.

For me and for now:

Does your orthodoxy match your orthopraxy? In the Body? In love? By a renewed mind?

Be reasonable, be sensible, be loving - in view of the mercies of God - this is spiritual common sense.