

Rom 12

Rom 8:35

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:37-39

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

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.

Paul ended chapter 11 of that section in adoring worship. Rom 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has become His counselor?"

35 'Or who has first given to Him
And it shall be repaid to him?"

36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever.
Amen.

Starting in chapter 12 Paul begins speaking of relationships.

First is our relationship and most important relationship is with God.

Chapter 12 of Romans is considered the practical section of the book.

Paul is speaking to the brethren,
• the spiritual family.

Our relationship with the Lord determines every other relationship in our life.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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;

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

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

Prior to this chapter, Paul has used “therefore” three times. The first was in chapter 3:20 when he used it of condemnation declaring that the whole world is guilty before the Lord.

Then in chapter 5:1 of justification and again in chapter 8:1 of assurance.

12:1 I beseech you therefore, (4th usage) brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- Ch 1:18-3:20 -the world desperately needs to get right with the Lord

2 Tim 3:1-6

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Peter 3:3-4

scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

Then Paul tells us how to get right with the Lord in chapters Ch 3:21-5:21

In Chapters 6:1-8:39 - He reminds us that the believer can now be sanctified,

- Ch 9:1-11:36 - We the church are to carry the gospel to the rest of the world

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.

Paul now opens verse 1 by appealing to the people. He says, because of all that God has done for you it's time for you to live like this!!!

In most English translations the word "appeal" is used here in verse 1. However, the NKJV and a few other translations use "beseech." instead. (beg or plead)

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (calling them to come alongside of)(this is real discipleship)

Paul is speaking to the believers here. Non-believers will not conform to this.

"Present" is a priestly word.

Peter called the believer a holy priesthood in 1 Peter 2:5.

1 Peter 2:5

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

Paul calls the sacrifice a living sacrifice,

- not a dead sacrifice.

What is so important about the body? Why does Paul say to present your body a living sacrifice?

Because Paul tells us in 1 Cor 6 that

- the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

How do we or how should we worship the Lord today?

- Spirit and truth

When we do that, we're simply giving back to God what is rightfully his anyway.

The most important relationship you'll ever have on this earth is with God.

In Romans 6 verse 13 Paul spoke about presentation. He said,

- stop presenting yourselves to sin.

If you stop presenting yourself to something, you present yourself to something else:

- What is that something else in your life?

So Paul was saying:

- Stop conforming yourself to the way the world thinks.

He went on to explain that to whomever you present yourself to,

- you're a slave to them or to that.

You may think, well I don't serve anybody. Yes you do,

And you get to choose whom you're going to serve.

Thomas Brooks once said: Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death.

When we're presenting ourselves to God, we can't break His promises by leaning on them:

God's presence—Heb. 13:5

God's protection—Gen 15:1

God's power—Isa 41:10

God's provision—Isa 41:10

God's leading—John 10:4

God's purposes—Jer. 29:11

God's rest—Matt. 11:28

God's cleansing—I John 1:9

God's goodness—Psalm 84:11

God's faithfulness—I Sam. 12:22

God's guidance—Psalm 25:9

God's wise plan—Rom. 8:28

Present your bodies a living sacrifice holy, acceptable (col 1:22 may be the key to that.)

to God, which is your reasonable service. (do you realize that if you've confessed Jesus He takes take serious, and he will use your life. BTW, to say you're a Christian is to be Christ Like.

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.

1 Peter 1:13-16

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Colossians 3:10 and (as a believer we) have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him

In verses 1 and 2 Paul says, I beseech you to present your bodies a living sacrifice and do NOT be conformed to this world, then (he says) to be transformed by the renewing of your mind! Why, because it's the will of God!

Paul gave back to back commands,

- one is to not be conformed.
- The second is to be transformed!

First: don't be conformed. Jesus said on the sermon on the mount.

- Do not be like them speaking of the world.

We are to be different.

- 1 Jn chapter 2 goes further and says
 - "do not love the world or the things in the world."

Second: be "transformed" by the renewing of the mind. The Greek word is metamorphoō, meta-med-fo which is where we get the English word metamorphosis.

If you've given your life to Christ,

- there should be a transformation in your life.

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

How is a person transformed? It starts with a renewing of the mind.

How do we renew our mind?

- Our bible!
- We have to read our bible.
- Prayer

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

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.

In verses 3 to 8 we'll see relationships in the body of Christ and spiritual gifts that are involved in that. Part of the renewed mind is to simply think soberly.

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

We are all members of one body,

- if you don't do what you're called to do then
- I suffer because of that,

likewise,

- if I don't do what I ought to be doing then
- you're going to suffer because of that.

First Corinthians chapters 12 & 14 speak about spiritual gifts and

- and chapter 13 is right in the middle which is about Love and fruit.
- Spiritual gifts go along with love and fruit

God was making a statement between the 2.

- We need the fruit of love.
- It's very important that we learn to be members of the body.

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

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;

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

So he says in 6b let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

This is a specific faith that He gives us to operate in.

- First Corinthians 14 spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet.

This means that you couldn't say that

- I couldn't help it because I was out of control.

Think about this when speaking,

- will this edify the body of Christ,
- Will this promote,
- will this bless the body of Christ?

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

1 cor 12 5 he says a similar thing.

Acts 6:2 they were serving tables,

- then in verse 4 they were ministering the word.
- Both serving and ministering are the same word,
- diakonia (to serve, to wait upon).

Verse 7 continues speaking about the gifts: Paul is saying, if you're teaching, then teach

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation he who gives, with liberality (James 1:5 God just pours His wisdom out); he who leads, with diligence he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

(parakaléœ, exhortation: whoever calls alongside.) Some have the ability to be one on one and more personal and they call people alongside and lead them in a more personal discipleship like he says in 1 cor 14:3;