

## The Body Life

### I. Members one of another as the Body of Christ

#### A. Transformation in practicing the Body life

1. By the presenting of our bodies

**Romans 12:1**

I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

2. By the renewing of the mind

**Romans 12:2-3**

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly *of himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

3. By the exercising of the gifts

**Romans 12:4-8**

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

5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or service, *let us be faithful* in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;

8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.

4. By the living of a life of the highest virtues

**Romans 12:10-11, 13, 15, 17-18**

10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

17 Repay no one evil for evil; take forethought for things honorable in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.

#### B. Transformation in receiving the believers

1. According to God's receiving

**Romans 14:1-3, 5-6, 8**

1 Now him who is weak in faith receive, *but* not for the purpose of passing judgment on *his* considerations.

2 One believes that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables.

3 He who eats, let him not despise him who does not eat; and he who does not eat, let him not judge him who eats, for God has received him.

- 5 One judges one day above another; another judges every day *alike*. Let each be fully persuaded in his own mind.
  - 6 He who regards that day, regards *it* to the Lord; and he who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who does not eat, does not eat to the Lord, and he gives thanks to God.
  - 8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
2. In the principle of love
- Romans 14:13, 15**
- 13 Therefore let us judge one another no longer, but rather judge this: not to put a stumbling block or cause of falling before your brother.
  - 15 For if because of food your brother is wounded, you no longer walk according to love. Do not destroy by your food that man for whom Christ died.
3. For the kingdom life
- Romans 14:17, 19-20**
- 17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
  - 19 So then let us pursue the things of peace and the things for building up one another.
  - 20 Do not break down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but it is evil for a man to eat while stumbling *others*.
4. According to Christ
- Romans 15:1-2, 5b-6, 7**
- 1 But we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those who are weak and not to please ourselves.
  - 2 Let each of us please his neighbor with a view to what is good for building up.
  - 5b ...be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus,
  - 6 That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 7 Therefore receive one another, as Christ also received you to the glory of God.

## II. The practical living of the Body of Christ in different localities

### **Romans 16:1-5, 16, 20, 23, 25a, 27**

- 1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- 2 That you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well.
- 3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,
- 4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- 5 And *greet* the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.
- 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- 20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- 23 Gaius, my host and *host* of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus the brother.
- 25a Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery...
- 27 To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.