

Building Strong Families
What is the Ultimate Reality of the Family?
Romans 12:1-8

- **The foundation of the family of God is service. (v. 1-2)**
- J.B. Phillips translation: *With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.*
 - **Paul is appealing to us by God's mercies (justification from sin and its effects, adoption into the family of God, grace, the gift of the Holy Spirit, assurance of our salvation, coming glorification, and many more).**
 - **His appeal is that these mercies take effect in us by way of (living) sacrifice, transformation of the mind, and testing and discernment.**
 - **A life of living sacrifice results in (among other things) a life of service.**
 - **Spiritual worship = Reasonable service**
- **The force of the family of God is togetherness. (v. 3-4a)**
- **In the body of Christ, we experience true unity and true diversity.**
 - **We are individuals with individual giftings; however, our giftings are meant to be used as members of the body.**
 - **We need one another to experience true flourishing as humans.**
 - **While we experience unity, the unity is not experienced because of our uniformity but in our diversity.**
- **The function of the family members of God is found in our giftedness. (v. 4b-8)**