



Serving God and Others  
Romans 12

On the basis of God's mercy shown to us in salvation, Paul commands us to offer ourselves as living, holy, and pleasing sacrifices to God. That service to God should result in service for others.

**Our Service to God (12:1-2)**

**Offer ourselves as living sacrifices (v.1)** - The Greek word *latreian* translated "worship" refers to any ministry performed for God such as that of the priests and Levites. Our offering of our total life as a sacrifice is therefore, sacred service.

**Don't be conformed to the pattern of this world (v.2)** - The world is always trying to shape us from the outside into its mold. Among the values of the world are selfishness, lustful love, doing what feels good, "tolerance" to the point of no right and wrong, violence and materialism.

**Be transformed by the renewing of our minds (v.2)** - We must be transformed by spiritual input from God's Word, prayer, and Christian fellowship so we'll have God's values of God centeredness, sacrificial love, mercy and justice, righteousness, peace and contentment. When we have God's values, we can discern what His will is and do it.

**Our Service to Others (12:3-21)**

**Think of ourselves in a proper and godly way (v.3)** - Further, we can't serve others properly unless we have a proper view of who we are. So, Paul commands us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. We are to recognize by faith that we are all sinners saved by grace and given spiritual gifts to serve one another.

**Use our spiritual gifts (vv.4-8)** - Paul lists seven spiritual gifts and uses the same metaphor he does in 1 Corinthians 12. Just like our bodies are single entities, yet made up of many parts, so the body of Christ is a unity, but made up of believers with different gifts.

**Love must be supreme in all our actions (vv. 9, 10)** - No matter what great things we accomplish with our gifts they are useless unless we do them with love. Paul commands that we love sincerely and that we be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

**Love Christians as family (vv.10-16)** - Paul lists several commands that characterize our family love for each other. We must: (1) - Outdo one another in showing honor (2) - Share with those in need (3) - Be hospitable (4) - Share in joy and sorrow (5) - Live in harmony with one another (6) - Don't be proud and associate with the humble. (7) Don't be conceited. Notice our love for each other is during our zealous service for the Lord in which we rejoice in hope, are patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.

**Love enemies as family (vv. 17-21)** - Paul teaches people are watching how we react in circumstances. To those who are our enemies and would seek to harm us we are to: (1) Bless them (2) Live at peace with them (3) - Not take revenge, but allow God to work out His justice (4) - Meet their needs (5) - Overcome evil with good. We love all people. Because God so loved the world.