

In View of God's Mercy - Week 13

Romans 12

Pastor Matt Dean

Context – This is the turning point, after a comprehensive view of God, the reality of sin, God's wrath and work to bring about a righteousness by faith in Jesus, the glory of grace that those who trust in Christ experience, the new identity for those who trust in Christ as children of God, the freedom from condemnation, God's sovereignty over salvation for the nations and for Jewish people, and our role as the Church to carry the name of Jesus to the peoples of the world... all this points to the profound power and unrivaled wisdom of God, where we can then say – God from you, and through You and to You are all things – to you God belongs the glory.

God from you, and through You and to You are all things – to you God belongs the glory.

God from You

- Life and breath, the universe and all that we can see
- Mercy and grace, salvation and redemption
- Eternal life and all wisdom and power
- All glory and honor and all purpose and plans

God through You

- Only then does life make sense; Only You can hold all this together
- Only You can save those whom you have chosen
- Only You can strengthen the weak, set captives free, give sight to the blind
- Only You can redeem what is lost; Only You can keep every promise
- Only You can fulfill every covenant; Only You can rescue us from rebellion
- Only You can sanctify those who trust in you; Only You can keep those who belong to you
- Only You can build your Kingdom; Only You can save people from every tribe, tongue, and nation

God to You

- To you belongs our highest praise; To you we give our greatest allegiance
- To you we give our sincere worship; To you we look for life itself
- To you we look when we don't understand; To you we look when we can't see how
- To you we look with our hope for eternity; To you we offer our very lives
- To you we give our first and best; To you we give our hopes and dreams
- To you – belongs all the glory.

Romans 12 –

- A whole life response in view of God's mercy
- What it means to belong and serve alongside one another as the Church
- What life looks like as new humanity in Christ with each other and in a broken world

The Way of Life

A Living Sacrifice

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

In view of God's mercy – offer your lives.

Living Sacrifice.

Holy and Acceptable to God.

This is worship.

Do not be conformed to this world.

Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Renewal and testing leads to discernment

The will of God = good, acceptable, and perfect.

The Way of Life in the Church / as the Church

Gifts of Grace

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Be humble and think clearly.

God has assigned a measure of faith.

One body. Many members.

Members do not all have the same function.

We - though many - are one body in Christ.

We - though many - members of one another.

We - though many - have different gifts according to the grace given

Gifts have been given – so use them.

- Prophecy - in proportion to our faith
- Service - in our serving
- Teaching - in teaching
- Exhortation - in his exhortation
- Giving - in generosity
- Leading - with zeal
- Mercy - with cheerfulness

Life Together.**Marks of the True Christian**

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Life Together

Genuine love.

Oppose evil. Hold fast to what is good. Both and.

Love one another with brotherly affection – see this as family.

Honor – means to place value on one another – and outdo one another.

Be zealous. Be fervent. Serve Jesus.

Rejoice in hope – this is our choice to make.... Yet I WILL rejoice.

Be patient (steadfast endurance) in tribulation.

Be constant in prayer.

Be generous to the needs of one another.

Be intentional to show hospitality.

Life in a broken world.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

When you are persecuted – bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice.

Weep with those weep.

Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be haughty or better than... but be humble.

Do not retaliate with evil. (Jesus says this very thing in Matthew 5:38-45)

Give thought to what is honorable in the sight of all.

If possible (means it's not always possible) So far as it depends on you - live peaceably with all.

Beloved people – leave vengeance to God.

Feed your enemy. Give your thirsty enemy something to drink.

Kindness to our enemies heaps burning coals on their head.... Confounding kindness.

Do not be overcome by evil – overcome evil with good.

In view of God's Mercy:

Here's my whole life (from You) so now I know that all that I am and all that I have is from you God. You chose me. You saved me. You awakened my heart to see you and believe. You called me yours. You accomplished my salvation. You gave me righteousness. You are my Peace. You are my eternity.

And (through You) I belong to the Church and with your people - You have given me gifts to use in the gathered Church and with the community of Christ followers. God help me live by faith through the promises you have given me, God help me serve selflessly through the strength you have given me, God help me give generously through Your provision for me, God help me care for others through the capacity You have given me. God help me love people in my life through Your life in me.

(to You) in this broken world I know there will be hardship, suffering, opposition, and hard choices — but I offer my life to You – a living sacrifice to You - bearing faithful witness to You.