

Series: Community and Diversity

Sermon: **Transformational Living in Community by the Mercies of God**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **October 23, 2016**

Bible text explored: Romans 12:1–8

¹I 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. ²Do 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.

³For 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the 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. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. How, in *Romans 11:32*, did Paul succinctly summarize the theological themes he has covered in this letter?
How (v. 1, above) is “not getting what we deserve” the basis—in the balance of Paul’s letter—for addressing how we transform our conduct?
2. In contrast with sacrifices slaughtered under the first covenant, how is my whole self with its capacities to be offered in worship? (See also *Rom. 6:13*.)
3. Since my intellect (v. 2) is a key part of my “living sacrifice,” what can I do to grow in discernment and bring my values into line with “the timetable of eternity”?
4. The mirror image of God’s mercy, Pastor Moody said, is God’s grace (v. 3): “getting what we do *not* deserve.” How is Jesus’ unmerited gift of life to each of us part of this grace? (See also *Rom. 5:15* and *11:5-6*)
The grace given to Paul may have involved special privilege and authority (*Rom. 15:15-16*). But with what grace is every believer gifted? (See *1 Cor. 12:7-11*.)
How does this “gospel effect” help me form a balanced, stable view of myself and the gifts God has chosen for me? (See *Eph. 4:16*.)
5. The gifts God has assigned to us (vv. 4-8) are his grace equipping us to serve others. How can pride in my gifting lead to counter-productive competition? How should belonging to a shared community make each of us “dynamically compatible” and intimately connected?
6. Why should recognizing that our gifts differ free us to say “no” to some invitations?
Am I tempted to not use a gift I’ve been given?
Am I putting my gift(s) to use regularly, energetically, and cheerfully?