

## Romans 12

1. So far in his letter, Paul has focused on supporting his argument that both Jews and Gentiles need Jesus, that works cannot replace grace, and that both have a place in God's plans. Now, Paul moves to the application of his argument. Is it difficult for you to put into practice what the Bible explains? Please explain.

Why is it important to put into practice what God says? (See Matthew 7:24-27.)

Why do you think it is difficult for people, both then and now, to put God's word into practice?

2. In verse 1, Paul urges his brothers to do what?

What can we tell about Paul that he used the word "urge"?

What does it mean to you that we are to be living sacrifices?

What type of sacrifices do you feel would be pleasing to God? (See Proverbs 21:3, Matthew 9:13, Romans 6:13.)

3. What does it mean to conform to a pattern or an idea?

In what ways does the world try to get us to conform to its ideals and behaviors?

How does Paul tell us to avoid conforming to the pattern of the world?

What is the difference between "conform" and "transform"?

According to Paul, who or what is responsible for the conforming to the world?

Who or what is responsible for the transforming of our minds?

What is the significance in Paul's statement that transformation comes from the renewing of our minds?

Are you good at determining what is God's "good, pleasing, and perfect will"?

Can you give examples of Christians conforming to the pattern of the world?

Can you remember a time when you were transformed by the renewing of your mind?

4. Continuing to speak to both Jews and Gentiles as one, Paul states that he speaks because of the grace given to him. What does this mean?

What does Paul admonish us not to do?

Instead, what are we to do?

What standard are we to use when thinking or measuring ourselves?

How does Paul's advice help unify the Body of Christ?

5. Verse 5 begins one of Paul's most vivid examples. What does Paul say about our physical bodies?

How does this analogy apply to the Body of Christ?

In what way do the parts of the body belong to each other?

When have you witnessed the Body of Christ being the Body of Christ?

6. Paul next talks about spiritual gifts. How would explain spiritual gifts to a new Christian?

When did you realize you had a spiritual gift?

What are some of the gifts Paul lists in vs. 6-8?

Why do you believe people have such a difficult time identifying their gifts?

7. Paul goes into more detail about spiritual gifts in his letter to the church in Corinth. However, Paul does not want the emphasis to be on the gifts alone. Why?

In verse 9, Paul shifts from spiritual gifts to love. Why do you believe he did this?

What does this mean for us?

What does Paul say about love?

Where or how might we encounter a love that is not sincere?

What does it mean we are to hate what is evil?

Why do we have to cling to what is good?

Can you give an example of a time when you had to cling what is good?

8. Paul continues to detail how we are to live as the Body of Christ. What does he instruct us to do in verses 9-13?

How do these instructions help us to live as one body united in Christ?

Which of these stand out to you for one reason or another?

In view of how the Jews and the Gentiles viewed each other and in view of how people treat each other today, verse 14 can be especially challenging. How can we bless people who persecute us?

How do we curse people?

Why is blessing those who persecute us such an important concept?

Do you see a relationship or correlation between verses 9 and 14? Please explain.

When have you "cursed" instead of "blessed" someone?

When have "blessed" someone?

9. Paul continues pointing out how we are to put Christ's words into actions. What does Paul tell us in verses 15-16?

How do we live in harmony each other? Does this also include those in the world?

What is one way we can avoid pride?

Whom would you consider "people of low position"?

What might lead us to become conceited?

10. Verses 17 and 19 could be sides of the same coin. In verses 17, what does Paul instruct us not to do?

If we repay someone evil for evil, are we seeking revenge? Please explain.

Why are we not to take revenge?

Paul states that we are to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. Are there some things that everyone thinks is right? What are some?

Why do you think Paul added "if it is possible" to the beginning of verse 18?

According to verse 20, how are we to treat those who are evil?

What does it mean that being kind would heap burning coals on his head?

11. Verse 21 concludes this chapter. It is very clear. What does it mean to overcome something?

According to God's word, the only way to overcome evil is with good. If we react to evil with evil, what will be the outcome?

Taking all Paul has said in this chapter, some might now debate what is evil and what is good. How do we tell the difference?

It seems we can apply this verse every day. It is not easy to put into practice. Yet, it is not optional. How, then, can we consistently overcome evil with good?

12. The way Paul states these ways we are to live our faith points out that they are all a result of our choice and not a result of how we feel. Why is this important?

What can happen when we act based upon our emotions?

How can we consistently make these choices in a world that is so hostile to Christ and us?