# A Living Sacrifice - Ch. 12

Romans chapter twelve deals with the Christian’s duties, to have a surrendered life. The church is compared to the human body. There should be unity among the body, if there is no unity, the body will not function properly. This chapter also deals with the different duties of the church. This chapter ends with the Christian spirit. We are not to be overcome with evil but with good.

Romans twelve can involve a lifetime of study, and therefore my comments on this chapter will not be exhaustive. My study of this chapter is ongoing.

Often times words lose their value with us with overuse. Let us look more closely at the vocabulary of the first two verses of this chapter that we may gain a deeper understanding of it:

**Beseech** – This has the ideas of *to call near and intreat.* This is a plea in earnest.

**Therefore** – What is it THERE FOR? All of Chapter eleven expresses what grace has brought about. The outcast has been included. Therefore, we must do….

**Brethren** – He speaks to those that have been blood bought and born again. Not, the Israel of Isaac of the spiritual Israel.

**Mercies of God** – It is by the mercy of God that we would be hearing such a plea. Had it not been for God’s mercy shown on the road to Damascus, Paul could not make such a plea. He does not make the plea because he is better than everyone, but because of God’s mercy is he qualified to make such a plea.

**Bodies** – In the mortal body we must glorify God. Not just someday and for now do the best that we can. …We should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—Titus 2:12

**Living Sacrifice** – The flesh must be crucified. Our will must be crucified. We offer alive, but God thoroughly will purge us as long as we remain on the altar.

**Holy** – Our lives ought to be light to those that wander in the darkness.

**Acceptable unto God** – *fully agreeable; well pleasing* In this age full of men pleasers, we must seek our approval from God. What does He think about a direction you take? To be accepted by this world is to be rejected by Him. We cannot be agreeable with the flesh and this world and at the same time be agreeable to God. There must be a clear line of alliance defined. Who will you side with?

**Reasonable service** – His yoke is easy, but any requirement God could make of us would pale in greatness to what He has provided for us.

**Conformed** – *Conform to the same pattern; fashion self according to*;

**Transformed** – *metamorphosis; change*; This is the miraculous work ofGod.

**Renewing of your Mind** – Our mind is made new by the Word. Replace our carnal thoughts with *What saith the Lord*.

**Good, Acceptable, & Perfect Will of God** – This is not God’s three wills, but three adjectives of God’s one sovereign will. He is not double-minded.

The following instructions are given for the Believer to follow. Again, a lifetime could be devoted to their study. This chapter is rich, but I will be content for now to simply list the different thought presented. They are categorized

respectively, God’s gifts to man, and man’s return responsibility to God for what God has given.

GOD HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO HIS PEOPLE:

Grace Given

Dealt to every man the measure of faith

One Body in Christ

Gifts

Prophecy

Proportion of Faith

Ministry

Teaching

Exhorting

GOD’s PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ACT ACCORDINGLY:

Think Soberly

Giving with Simplicity

Ruling with Diligence

Show mercy with Cheerfulness

Let Love be without Dissimulation

Abhor that which is evil

Cleave to that which is good

Kindly Affectioned

Brotherly Love

In Honor Preferring one Another

Slothful in Business

Fervent in Spirit

Serving the Lord.

Rejoicing in hope

Patient in Tribulation

Continuing Instant in Prayer

Distributing to the necessity of Saints

Given to Hospitality

Bless them which Persecute You; Bless and Curse Not

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Be of the same mind one toward another.

Real Salvation: Practical holiness – Wearing His righteousness and thus daily purifying ourselves

Successful Christians:

1. They have a sound foundation (which is the Word of God)
2. They have a sound work habits
3. They esteem others before themselves
4. They keep their self-respect by being loyal to God and His holy word
5. They do things God’s way, understanding that it always the best way
6. They are very cooperative (finding what God wants in any situation and doing it)
7. They listen to others (and in return they are heard)
8. They are enthusiastic about every endeavor that they are faced with
9. They are a friend (and in return they have friends)
10. They are sincere
11. They set goals (both small and large goals)
12. They use any failure as a stepping stone for success
13. They set their mind (on things above, not on the things of this earth)
14. They find a place to rest their mind (in fasting and praying)
15. They have skill – they are instant in season and out of season
16. They give God the glory for they have accomplished
17. They check their motives
18. And then they – Start Again!!!

Being not conformed to the world: Jeremiah 10:10-13; John 1:9; I Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 9:14

The world uses the principles of God to become successful for their own gain. If we use the principles of God to become successful not for us but for Him and His kingdom; how much more of value is that.

Winning souls for the kingdom, what a joy and privilege (Proverbs 11:30)

Receive our ideas through prayer – what does that have to do with Romans?

Why do I want to be a successful Christian?

Success is learning how to lead others to Christ.

We are to pattern our lives after Christ.

Are mind is to be set above – We are not to have a dream in this world

Hosea 2:8

Recognizing authority

Overcome, means war.

Romans 12:20 is an aggressive stance. It is not a defensive stance.

To overcome is to defeat the enemy. Those that speak evil, and do evil; we are in a warfare for that persons soul.

Our act of aggression as Christians is an act of prayer.

Do we pray until we weep within our souls for other people? The battle is within our souls. The Love that we show to others is not show the Lords hate but his love. Now our weapons are not the same weapons as those used in traditional warfare, but they are more powerful.

If you were to die tomorrow, what would you do? And the answer to that question is an indicator of weather we are spiritual or carnal.

Defeat brings disgrace to Christ. Am I recognizing his authority in my life?

We are called to a different kind of warfare. A warfare of peace, love, joy…

II Corinthians 10:4

The Stronghold is the mind,

Christ is our example, while being crucified and etc… he forgave

II Corinthians 2:14

Romans 8:29 If I do not yield to his plan, it will not become successful

By doing the word of God, we can have an affect on everyone that we come into contact with.

Romans 2:4 – People react better to good better than bad…

What not said, is sometimes more important than what people do say.

**ROMANS CHAPTER 12**

Paul's Great Plea for Personal Consecration to God, in view of His mercies.

The perfect will of God for each believer.

Verse 1: "I BESEECH YOU BY THE MERCIES OF GOD."

**What are the "mercies of God" to which Paul refers?**

1. **Justification** - including pardon, removal from sins, trespasses never to be remembered, a standing in Christ -

being made the righteousness of God in Him.

2. **Identification** - taken out of Adam by death with Christ - dead to sin and the law - we now become identified

with Christ.

3. **Under Grace** - Fruit unto God - unto sanctification, made possible.

4. **The Spirit Indwelling** - the spirit witnesses of Sonship and Heirship.

5. **Help in Infirmity** - and in any present sufferings, on our way to share Christ's glory.

6. **Divine Election** - our final conformity to the image of Christ - God's settled purpose.

7. **Coming Glory** - beyond any comparison with sufferings.

8. **No Separation Possible** - God loves us in Christ.

9. **Confidence in God's Faithfulness** - confirmed by His revealed plans for Israel.

**What becomes the motivating center of a Christians life?**

Verse 2: Renewing of your mind. The whole "mind" must become the object of the Spirit's renewing

power. The entire mind must come under the spirits control.

We are one body in Christ, with varying gifts. Verses 3 - 8

**What attitudes should a Christian have toward himself and toward his fellow Christians?**

Verse 3: "Not to think more highly of himself than he ought"

Verse 5: "Everyone are members one of another"

**What is the one possessing a gift supposed to do with it? Verses 6 - 8**

- The various gifts are bestowed by the Spirit.

The working of the gifts are for prophecy, ministering, teaching, exhorting, etc.

FAITH - For the receiving and using of these gifts, there is the necessity of faith for operation.

The possession of a gift is of no use unless it is put to use. It is the whole-hearted exercise of the gifts,

when it is given, that is urged by the apostles. Gifts are a direct bestowment of the Spirit.

**What 3 things do we see in verse 9?**

1. Let love be without dissimulation.

2. Abhor that which is evil.

3. Cleave to that which is good.

**What are the commands given to verses 11 - 21?**

1. Be not slothful in business.

2. Be ferverent in spirit, serving the Lord.

3. Rejoice in hope.

4. Be patient in tribulation.

5. Continuing instant in prayer.

6. Distributing to the necessity of saints.

7. Given to hospitality.

8. Bless them which persecute you.

9. Rejoice with them that rejoice.

10. Weep with them that weep.

11. Be of the same mind one toward another.

12. Mind not high things.

13. Consend to men of low estate.

14. Be not wise in your own conceits.

15. Recompense to no man evil for evil.

16. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

17. Live peaceably with all men.

18. Avenge not yourself.

19. If thine enemy hunger, feed him.

20. If thine enemy thirst, give him drink.

21. Be no overcome of evil.

22. Overcome evil with good.

**What does Christian living involve?**

CONCLUSION: Being a Christian involves every area of a persons life. Mind and body are yielded to God in moral surrender as a spiritual offering. By his attitude and actions toward other Christians he is to demonstrate the fact that he is a fellow-member with them in the body of Christ. In his relationship with the sinner, he is to act in love and leave to God the avenging of evil.