

## ROMANS CHAPTER 12

vs. 1 I urge (beseech) you – The word was chosen by God! Not I command you or thou shalt, but ‘beg’ you. 2 Cor. 5:20  
By the mercies of God – The basis for God’s appeal. Said another way, “respond to the great love I have shown you”. What has this love involved?

1. Justification – forgiveness, the removal of our sins, never bringing up our sins again, being made the righteousness of God in Him.
2. Being made a new creation – taken out of Adam and placed in Christ.
3. Placed under grace and not under law – rather than sin reigning, righteousness (sanctification) reigns in us.
4. The Spirit now permanently indwells us having been given to us, who now prays for us.
5. Causing our present weakness to result in eternal reward.
6. Our election – foreknowledge – glorification
7. Expectation of future glory.
8. God loving us so much in Christ, that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God.
9. See “Grace Notes” – 9 pages of the mercies of God.

Present your bodies (in the case of a slave, his master owns his body; so he does what his master says, often with inner reluctance) from the motivation that He loves you. 2 Cor. 5:14

It is the members of our body (more than our mouth) that He is seeking service from. Rom. 6:12-13 Romans 6 taught us the theology; Romans 12 calls for the application – a living and holy sacrifice – He is not after our dead bodies when we die, He is after them now and the second they are offered to Him, they are Holy.

Ex. 29:37

This is your spiritual service of worship! 1 Pet. 2:4-5 (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 12:15-16)

vs. 2 Not conformed to this world, Gal.1:4; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 2:15-17, but be transformed – metamorphosis. 2 Cor. 3:18

Don't be fashioned by Satan, but rather be fashioned by God. By the renewing of our mind, our thoughts and imaginations must be taken captive by the Holy Spirit, given us from God.

Eph. 4:22-24 (note vs. 25-32); Col. 3:9-10; 2 Cor. 10:5

If we do this, we will “prove” what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Prove – to put to the proof Eph. 5:7-10 “Walk as children of light, proving (finding our by experience) what is well pleasing to the Lord (willed by God).

Good – for us

Acceptable – to God

Perfect – that which, being itself perfect, leads to our perfecting.

NOTE: The Christian experience is a progressive experience. It takes faith to surrender our wills. We must be brought to believe in our hearts that God's will is better for us than our own will and then we must walk His will.

Again: God is urging us along, not commanding us. Heartfelt devotion is always a matter of the will and cannot come as the result of legislation.

vs. 3 Think = estimate – A value placed upon. James 2:4

1. Over-estimation of one's own importance among the saints is often a real problem.

2. God has granted to each and every one of His saints an allotment (portion, measure) of faith.  
Note: It is faith and not knowledge that God has portioned.
3. **For** connects this verse with vs. 1-2. The only one who comes to have a “sober estimate” of his own place is the one who discovers God’s will through surrender to Him.
4. Due to the grace (apostolic position) given to Paul by God, which authorized him to direct us. He commands us to assess our “measure of faith” resulting in a sober estimate of our place in the family of God.

vs. 4-5      The analogy –

1. Our human bodies have many members.
2. These members constitute a unity – they are one body.
3. Each member impacts the others.
4. All our members do not do the same work.

So also is Christ!

Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-32; 1 Cor. 12:12-27

vs. 6-8      Every member of the Body of Christ has been given a gift. These gifts differ according to the allotment of faith. Each and every one of them is given for the edification of the Body, 1 Cor. 7, and they differ depending on the particular service which God has called each believer to:

1.      Prophecy 1 Cor. 14:3 “speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation”. New Testament prophets speaking directly by inspiration from God along with the apostles laid the foundation of the Church. Eph 2:20  
This foundational work is said to be done away with when the perfect comes. 1 Cor. 13:8-10 The foundation is complete with nothing to be added. The need for edification, exhortation and consolation continues.
2.      Service 1 Cor. 16:15; Acts 6:1-7 Both the daily serving of food and the ministry of the Word are ministries of the church.

**James 2:15-16 indicates that all are responsible to care for the**

less fortunate in the Body. The one with the gift would and should be far more involved in the physical side of Christ's ministry.

3. Teacher – Eph. 4:11-16 With the Apostles' and prophets' work complete, I would understand that the responsibility for the accomplishment of this work to fall upon the teacher, for the evangelist lays the foundation and the teacher builds upon it. 1 Cor. 3:10-15; James 3:1 All believers are to be teachers, Heb. 5:12, but the one who has received the gift has been placed for the greater portion of that work.
4. Exhortation – Exhortation is an appeal to the will as teaching is an appeal to the mind. The Holy Spirit works through the one with this gift to persuade the hearer into obedience to the truth, which he has heard. An individual who possesses both the gift of exhortation and teaching is a powerful communicator of the Word of God. Heb. 13:22; 1 Tim. 4:13
5. Gift of giving – All are commanded to give. One with this gift surpasses most and has been raised up and empowered for this very purpose. 2 Cor. 8:1-6
6. Lead (ruling) – Ruling is first a gift, then an office, like those of elders and deacons. Those that serve as elders should certainly possess this gift. Not all who possess this gift are intended to serve in the offices.
7. Shows mercy – Believers who feel called to devote themselves to the visiting of the sick and afflicted. Again, all are called to do this, yet one with this gift is able to do it with Holy Spirit produced cheerfulness.

We now come to a series of commands.

- vs. 9-21
1. Let love be without hypocrisy. 1 John 3:18
  2. Abhor that which is evil – To be a good Christian, a man must be a good hater. Ps. 97:10

3. Cling to what is good. Phil. 4:8
4. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13
5. Give preference to one another in honor – be glad when others are honored above you. We give glory to God when someone else does the same thing we do and does it better and we rejoice.
6. Not lagging behind in diligence – not slothful in the area of spiritual things.
7. Fervent in Spirit, serving the Lord. Not cold, unemotional or dignified, but rather “on fire for Jesus”. Apollo was said to have this spirit. Acts 18:24-26
8. Rejoicing in hope – Our hopes are bound up in the return of our Lord for us. We should be keeping our eyes up always.
9. Persevering in tribulations Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-8
10. Devoted to Prayer – Hundreds come out for Sunday morning worship services and special singing services. Handfuls come out to prayer. The government reports the thousands of hours that Americans watch TV. How many hours do you think we Christians spend in prayer a week? Can we call ourselves “devoted” to our TV programs or “devoted” to prayer?
11. Contributing to the needs of the saints – Making the needs of other brothers and sisters in Christ your responsibility.  
1 Tim. 6:17-19; 2 Cor. 8:12-15
12. Practicing hospitality – love to strangers. Luke 6:32-33 NOT
13. Bless...and curse not. Luke 6:27-28
14. Give time to the lives and experiences of others. Take your thoughts off yourself and put them with the other person.  
Listen, relate, care, share in their experience.
15. Maintain a godly balance. Philippians 2:2-5

16. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. This assumes that some will do your evil! Col. 3:13 Consider our Lord's attitude to those who have sinned against Him. Heb. 8:12
17. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. Our behavior should commend itself to all – whether Christian or not. 1 Cor. 10:23-29
18. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. We have not been called to control the life of the other person, only our own. If there is a problem, let it be theirs and not yours.
19. Never take your own revenge...leave room for God to heap burning coals upon your adversary's head. Forget getting even, get busy. God will, just like He always does, be good to the sinner that is troubling you.

The cultural reference is as follows:

In New Testament times, a fire was very important to maintain for household cooking. If your fire went out, you needed to borrow some burning coals from a neighbor. Your neighbor would put the coals in a pan, which you would carry home to relight your fire. Thus God may well save that sinner that you would really like to see leveled by Him.  
Sorry – God's just like that!

20. Do not be overcome by evil...overcome evil with good. With God's help, we can do this.