

**Lesson 13:
The Righteousness of God in Practice in Daily Life:
Life in the Body of Christ
Romans 12:1-21**

Romans 12:1-2: The "living sacrifice" of the one who has been justified

1. What does Paul desire that the one who has experienced the immense mercy and grace of God should do? [12:1; note he begins this section with "therefore" – because of all that God has done, you do this!]

- How does this fit in with what Paul has already taught? [cp 1:24-32; 2:1-3; 6:11-14; 8:12-14; etc]

2. Note that Paul uses the language of the holocaust ("whole burnt") offering (see Leviticus 1:1-9) in Romans 12:1. What is the first thing that must be done in this offering? [Rom 12:1; Lev 1:3 (see the NIV, NLT, and NET for greatest clarity on the use of the verb form of "Corban" here; if possible, using a good Bible dictionary, look up the meaning of "Corban")]

- In what state must the offering be? [Rom 12:1; Lev 1:3, 10]

- What is the offerer seeking in presenting this offering? [Rom 12:1; Lev 1:4]

- What does Paul say this process of offering a "living sacrifice" truly is? [Rom 12:1; Lev 1:9, 13, 17 (consider the variant readings in the NASB, NIV, ESV, and CSB for a clearer rendering of Rom 12:1)]

3. In addition to (or WHILE) doing this, what must the offerer of this spiritual sacrifice NOT do? [12:2a]

- Instead, what must the offerer of this spiritual sacrifice do, and how? [12:2b; cp Jesus' teaching in His "sermon on the mount" in Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, etc]

- What is to be the result of this in the life of the one who offers this spiritual sacrifice? [12:2c; cp Lev 10:8-11 (consider the variant readings in NASB, NIV, ESV, and CSB for Rom 12:2)]

Romans 12:3-8: "Having gifts...let us use them"

4. What is the basis for Paul's exhorting his brethren? [12:3a; cp 1 Cor 15:9-10; 2 Cor 10:1; 1 Th 1:12-16]

- To whom does Paul specifically address these exhortations? [12:3b; cp 1:6-8; etc]

- What does Paul say that they ought NOT to do? [12:3c; cp 1 Cor 4:6-7; Philippians 2:3-4; etc]

- But rather, what must the Christian servant do? [12:3d; cp Lev 10:8-11; Titus 2:12 (NKJV); 1 Th 5:6, 8; 1 Peter 1:13; 5:8; etc]

- What is the basis for considering one another as we serve? [12:3e; cp 12:3a; 1 Cor 12:7-11; etc]

- 5. As Paul considers the Christian's "reasonable service" not only to God but also to his brethren, he uses a parable about the human body to make his point. Though we each have only one body, it is made up of "many members". (12:4) What is true regarding these members? [12:4; cp 1 Cor 12:14-18; etc]
 - According to Paul's parable, what **two** things are therefore also true regarding the "members" of the (local) body of Christ? [12:5; cp 1 Cor 12:18, 27; etc]

- 6. What does Paul then call these differing "functions" of the members of the body, and what is the source of them all? [12:6; cp 1 Cor 12:4-11, 18; etc]
 - Many of the modern translations have "inserted" the phrase "let us use them" (or similar) to convey the sense of the exhortations that follow in 12:6ff. Even though this exact phrasing is not found in the original text, what is the obvious desire of God in having given "body parts" their "functions" and services? [12:6; cp NLT, NIV, CSB, NET, YLT for some helpful variant readings of this text; see also 1 Cor 12:6-7, 18-22, 25; Eph 4:1-16; etc]

- 7. Note that only the first gift – "prophecy" – is a **miraculous** spiritual gift. Even so, ALL of these talents are gifts from God which should be used for a **spiritual purpose**. (12:6; cp 1 Cor 4:6-7; etc) In the case of "prophecy", what does Paul say should govern its use? [12:6b; cp 12:3; see also 2 Pet 1:20-21; etc]
 - What should be done with the gift of "ministry" (service)? [12:7a]
 - What should be done with the gift of "teaching" (instruction)? [12:7b]
 - What should be done with the gift of "exhortation" (consolation)? [12:8a]
 - What should govern the gift of "giving" (imparting, sharing)? [12:8b]
 - What should govern the gift of "leading" (caring for, presiding over)? [12:8c]
 - What should govern the gift of "mercy" (helping the afflicted)? [12:8d]
 - How do all these exhortations relate to the overall concept of offering a "**living** sacrifice"? [12:1-8; cp also Paul's exhortations in Ephesians 4:17ff]

Romans 12:9-21: Practical exhortations for Christian living and fellowship

- 8. What should not be present in the love of the one who offers a "living sacrifice"? [12:9; cp v10]
 - How do "abhorring what is evil" and "clinging to what is good" relate to loving without hypocrisy? [12:9b-c; cp 1 Cor 13:1-7; Gal 6:1-10; etc]

9. Grammatically, Romans 12:10-13 sets up a series of parallel exhortations that all start with “as to” or “in the” (meaning “with regard to”), which is not nearly as clear in the more modern translations. In the text of the *YLT* (reproduced to the right), it is a bit more apparent that Paul continues in his exhortations for a “living sacrifice” in the context of the local church. “In the love of brethren”, what is to govern the way we treat one another? [12:10a]

Young’s Literal Translation of Rom 12:9-13

⁹The love unfeigned: abhorring the evil; clinging to the good; ¹⁰in the love of brethren, to one another kindly affectioned: in the honour going before one another; ¹¹in the diligence not slothful; in the spirit fervent; the Lord serving; ¹²in the hope rejoicing; in the tribulation enduring; in the prayer persevering; ¹³to the necessities of the saints communicating; the hospitality pursuing.

- With regard to “honor”, what should be our aim? [12:10b; cp 1 Cor 12:23-27; Php 2:3-4, 7; etc]

 - With regard to “diligence”, how ought we to be? [12:11a]

 - With regard to the “spirit”, what should we be? [12:11b]

 - With regard to the “Lord”, what should we be doing? [12:11c]

 - With regard to “hope”, what ought to characterize it? [12:12a; cp 1 Pet 3:15]

 - With regard to “tribulation”, what ought we to do? [12:12b]

 - With regard to “prayer”, what ought we to be? [12:12c]

 - With regard to the “needs of the saints”, what ought we to be doing? [12:13a]

 - With regard to “hospitality”, what ought we to be? [12:13b]
10. How must the transformed mind of the one offering a living sacrifice respond to persecutors? [12:14; cp Jesus’ teaching and practice in Mt 5:43-48; Lk 23:33-34; also Ac 7:59-60; 16:28-34; 1 Co 4:12-13; etc]
11. What should be the Christian’s attitude toward the joys of others? [12:15a; cp 1 Cor 13:5-6; etc]
12. What should be the Christian’s attitude toward the sufferings of others? [12:15b; cp 2 Cor 11:28-29]

ROMANS: the power of God for salvation

13. Consult a couple of translations for the sense of Romans 12:16a [ESV and NKJV, for example, translate the phrase very differently, but both are legitimate]. What does the exhortation “be of the same mind toward one another” really mean? [12:16a]

- What is needed in order to have the “same mindedness” Paul calls Christians to practice? [12:16b-c]

14. What will those who have a transformed mind as a living sacrifice not do? [12:17a]

- Instead, what will characterize their attitude and their actions? [12:17b]

15. On whom is the greatest responsibility to “live peaceably with all men”? [12:18]

16. What should be the Christian’s attitude with regard to “revenge”? [12:19; cp Deut 32:35]

- Therefore, what should be the Christian’s practice when dealing with an “enemy”? [12:20-21]