

Living, Holy and Acceptable Sacrifices

Romans 12

Read and meditate on the whole chapter.

1. Romans 12:1 marks the stark transition between the theology of Romans to the practical application of this letter. What is "therefore" there for? In other words, what is the theological basis or backdrop for Paul's applicational section in this letter?
2. What could Paul have been accused of if he had started his letter with these commands without giving the background information in chapters 1-11?
3. According to verses 1 and 2, what is true worship? How does this compare to the traditional view of worship? What does it take for you to worship God every day?
4. In what ways have you been conformed to this world?

5. Compare vv. 1 & 2 with 8:4-8. How is it that we are to be transformed? Look up these verses and write down what each teaches about that transformation:

Colossians 3:1-3

2 Cor. 10:5

Ephesians 4:22-24

6. According to this chapter, what are the ways the body of Christ can be built up? What are the ways it can be damaged?

7. Read verses 3-8. Have you ever considered your own giftedness? What is your role in the body of Christ?

Vv. 9-21

8. Which command is the most difficult for you to obey? Why?

9. Is it possible for you to obey all of these commands all of the time? Why or why not?

10. What is hypocritical love (verse 9)? What do you need to change in order for your love to be sincere?

11. Verse 10 instructs us to "outdo one another in showing honor." To whom should you show honor? Who do you have a hard time showing honor to? Practically, what could you do to improve the honor you show to him or her?

12. Write down all of the references to humility in this chapter. What does humility have to do with worship?

13. According to verse 11, how are we to serve the Lord? How are you to approach coming to Bible study on Wednesday nights? Who is someone you know that models the commands of this verse consistently?

14. Take three of the commands in verses 14 through 18 and consider how the Holy Spirit is convicting your heart. Write down ways to radically apply each command in these varying relationships:

Command: Live in harmony with one another

Family relationships:

Church relationships:

Command: Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

School relationships:

Church relationships:

Command: Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

School relationships:

Family relationships:

Church relationships:

15. How far are we to take verses 19 through 21? What should you do when you are mistreated or scorned or persecuted? What does it mean to "heap burning coals" on the head of your enemy? If you are taking revenge against your enemies, then who are you essentially claiming to be?

Suggested memory verses:

Romans 12:1,2

Romans 12:9

Romans 12:16