



Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 12

God's Righteousness Revealed in His Body

Romans 1-8:

the Gospel can make sinners Righteous through faith in the death of Jesus Christ

1. **Chapter 1:** gospel reveals god's righteous wrath at man's sinful condition
2. **Chapter 2-3:** Christ's death redeemed, justified and atoned for our sins
3. **Chapter 4:** by faith we have receive the inheritance of Christ Abraham's seed
4. **Chapter 5:** we are no longer in Adam (old man) but in Christ (new man)
5. **Chapter 6:** we died with Christ to sin and now live with Christ in newness of life
6. **Chapter 7:** we are no longer under the Law and the rule of Sin
7. **Chapter 8:** the Law of Spirit of life enables us to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh
8. **Chapter 8b:** we groan as we are being transformed into the predestined image of the glorious Son of God

Romans 9-11:

God's Righteousness is Revealed in His Mercy and Patience with His Chosen Israel

1. **Chapter 9:** God is Sovereign as a Potter over Israel's clay
2. **Chapter 9:** He has chosen mercy over judgment
3. **Chapter 9:** God has kept for Himself a remnant of mercy
4. **Chapter 10:** Israel has fallen into a time of discipline for their blindness to their messiah
5. **Chapter 10:** Meanwhile God has sought out Gentiles to graft into the Kingdom of God by faith
6. **Chapter 11:** When the time of the Gentiles is complete He will save Israel so that all His chosen might know the greatness of His Mercy

Knowing the God of Grace and Mercy

Grace

surprise

in Christ Jesus

a gift undeserved

revealed at the cross

seen in face of Christ

enabling abundant life

abiding in the Vine

experienced in fellowship

fullness and riches of grace

by grace I am what I am

Mercy

comfort

Father of mercies

a judgment overruled

promised by covenant

seen in Potter's Hands

sustaining life in service

grafted into the olive tree

experienced in discipline

depth and riches of mercy

by mercy He is who He is

Romans 12: God's Righteousness Revealed in Body Life

1. Paul turns from doctrine to practical christian living as Christ's Righteousness is Expressed Corporately
2. **Romans 12.1-8** defines the life of grace, faith and gifts in the Body of Christ
3. **Romans 12.9-21** defines the christian life not only in the church but in the family and the world



Part One: **Romans 12.1-8** - Responding to God's Mercy with Grace's Offering

Rom 12.1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

1. Paul appeals to believers to look back at all the mercy shown by God in the first 11 chapters
2. Paul does not command but appeals to the Romans to make an appropriate response as they now walk by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus
3. Unlike other religious sacrifices where one kills and sacrifices a holy animal, Christians are to offer their living bodies now clothed in Christ's righteousness as our intelligent spiritual worship and service
4. Just as we were to “**present the members of our body to God**” (**Rom.6**) as individual servants of righteousness, so now a second ‘presenting of our bodies’ is needed to serve God in the Body of Christ
6. Our bodies are a holy sacrifice not because we are perfect but because we have separated ourselves for the Lord's use
7. Our body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit and are the hands and feet which enable our spirit and soul to do the will of God

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Romans 12 marks a turning point where four miracles take place

#1: **Incorporation** into one Body: the Spirit takes our many “bodies” offered and creates One New Organic Body of Christ out of them (“**by one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body**” **1Cor12.13**)

- a - Paul sees this same mystery expressed when a man and woman become one in marriage
- b - there is no other experience in human history where many bodies are spiritually bound together into one “New Man”
- c - participation in a living connection with many diverse individuals expressing One Heavenly Life gives us an expansive sense of belonging
- d - Paul has expanded the revelation of abiding “**in Christ**” from an individual life to a corporate one as part of a “**new creation**”

Part One: **Romans 12.1-8** - Responding to God's Mercy with Grace's Offering

Rom 12.2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12 marks a turning point where four miracles take place

#2 **Transformation**: the Spirit begins transforming our formerly self centered minds as we find one “**mind of Christ**” directing and uniting us

a - the cross begins barring the world's influences upon our minds as the lies and deceit of worldly thinking is exposed in the truth of who we are in Christ

b - this allows us to set our hearts on discovering what God's will is as the Spirit illumines the Word

c - as we walk in the Spirit “**having this mind within us which was also in Christ Jesus**” we begin to prove that good, acceptable and perfect will of God for us

d- this renewed mind becomes the most important function of our soul which influences the heart to desire the things of God: good things; acceptable things; perfect things

Part Two: **Romans 12.3-5** - Each member functions in the Body by Faith, Grace and Gift

Rom 12.3 For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.

Rom. 12.4-5 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

Romans 12 marks a turning point where four miracles take place

#3 Interdependence: the Spirit humbles our independence as we learn that our ministry and service are corporately interconnected in One New Organic Body of Christ

1. Warning Label: the un-renewed mind thinks too highly of his part in the church's life and ministry
2. The Spirit teaches humility and a proper assessment of our part in the Body as we realize God has only given a "measure of faith" which must submissively rely upon others
3. Fullness is defined by the diversification of its members not greatness of our individual gifts and service
4. Unity is only possible by the Spirit -led connection of each one's 'proportion' shared with others
5. Individuality is never lost, but individualism is nailed to the cross

Part Two: **Romans 12.3-5** - Each member functions in the Body by Faith, Grace and Gift

Rom 12.3 ...God has distributed a **measure of faith** to each one.

Rom. 12.6 Since we have **gifts** that differ according to the **grace** given to us

Rom. 12.6 exercise their **gifts** accordingly: if prophecy, according to the **proportion of his faith**

Romans 12 marks a turning point where four miracles take place

#4. **Spiritual Gifts Discovered:** the Spirit of Life sovereignly distributes spiritual gifts in each consecrated member as Grace begins to serve by Faith

a- each time our bodies serve by faith our measure grows

b - As our **charis caris** is exercised His **charismata carismata** is discovered as we serve

c - most of our ministries and gifts will be discovered while gathered together in meetings worship, service, witnessing and prayer

d - often our gift is discovered as we supply some need we see in the Body

e - As we offer our gifts in proportion to our faith our gifts grow as we faithfully serve by grace time and again

Part Three: **Romans 12.6-8** - Grace Gifts in Body Life
which are 'supernaturally natural'

Rom. 12.6b-8 ... according to measure of faith

- if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith;
- if **service**, in his serving; or
- he who **teaches**, in his teaching; or
- he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation;
- he who **gives**, with liberality;
- he who **leads**, with diligence;
- he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.



SUMMARY

God's Righteousness which was received by faith now calls for a life laid down by Grace doing righteousness by His Indwelling Life

Have this practical 'mind' in you about the faith and gifts which are positive expressions of God's Grace and life in you:

- be positive - if each member has a gift than we each must have a gift to serve in the Body (don't dwell on your poverty of talent but believe in His grace)

- we no longer live for ourselves so find what gift you have by actively responding to grace in meetings

- whatever small measure of faith allotted to you will grow if it is exercised not buried in doubt

- '**in proportion to faith**' is God's allotment in you that necessitates interdependence with other members

It doesn't matter if the glass is half empty or half full. There is clearly room for more wine.



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**DO NOT BURY YOUR
TALENTS,
THE GIFTS THAT
GOD
HAS GIVEN YOU.**

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 12.9-21
- Living by His Righteousness in the world