

# **Romans 12**

## **Romans 12.1-2**

**V1** – Paul was beseeching or urging his readers in this passage

-See *Philemon 8-14* – Paul could have commanded this, but chose to urge Philemon

-We see the same idea here and also in *Romans 6.12-14*

-**Why did Paul begin with the body?** The conduct of the body is very important in the Christian faith, but totally ignored in Gnosticism

-**In what passage did he say that his spirit was constantly at war with his body?** *Romans 7.23*

-**How is this different from the sacrifices in the Old Testament?** In the Old Testament, animals were slain with much bloodshed, but our bodies are to be "living" sacrifices

**V2** – "*Renewing of your mind*" – A reference to studying the Bible

-We are to serve God with the body (*1 Corinthians 6.12-20*)

-**Ways we can betray God with our bodies?**

-Giving in to stress or "hurry sickness"

-Eating to the point of damaging our health

-Being involved with sinful activities that carry diseases with them

-Various other answers

-"*Be not conformed to this world*" – one must be transformed, or as we might say today, "Do not take this age as your fashion statement"

-**Why not?** *1 John 2.17* – *This world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever*

-**Is Paul referring to outward forms of dress (for example: ties, shoes, dress pants)?** No, *1 Corinthians 9.19-23* teaches that in terms of dress, we are to generally conform to the society where we are living

-**Therefore, how are we not to be transformed?** By avoiding immoral activities and everything else that might be contrary to the gospel of Christ

## **Romans 12.3-8**

**V3** – Parallel passage – *1 Corinthians 12* (those with spiritual gifts were taking over the service)

-**Why should one member not be boastful about his position or talents in the church?**

The church takes all kinds of members, and every member has something to contribute to the congregation

**V4** – **In the human body, do all the members have the same function?** Absolutely not

**V5** – In the same way, in the body of Christ, the members have different functions

**V6** – **How are members to exercise their gifts?** "*Accordingly*"

-**An example from the First Century church?** The gift of prophecy

**V7** – Two other gifts? Serving and teaching

**V8** – Other gifts in the First Century? Exhortation, giving, leading, mercy, cheerfulness

-What passage teaches that the gifts of the Spirit would be done away with later in the First Century? *1 Cor. 13.10*

## **Romans 12.9-13**

**V9** – Twenty-four admonitions which are easy to understand, but hard to follow

[Note to the teacher: You can ask the students to give examples of how each commandment could be carried out]

1. Let love be without hypocrisy
2. Abhor what is evil
3. Cling to what is good

**V10** – 4. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love

5. Give preference to one another in honor

**V11** – 6. Not lagging behind in diligence

7. Fervent in spirit
8. Serving the Lord

**V12** – 9. Rejoicing in hope

10. Persevering in tribulation
11. Devoted to prayer

**V13** – 12. Contributing to the needs of the saints

13. Practicing hospitality

## **Romans 12.14-21**

**V14** – 14. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse

**V15** – 15. Rejoice with those who rejoice

16. Weep with those who weep

**V16** – 17. Be of the same mind toward one another

18. Do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly
19. Do not be wise in your own estimation

**V17** – 20. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone

21. Respect what is right in the sight of all men

**V18** – 22. Live at peace with all men (so far as it depends on us)

**V 19-20** – 23. Never take your own revenge, but leave room for the wrath of God

-**Instead of taking our own revenge, what are we to do?** Leave room for the wrath of God

-**What has God promised?** He will repay vengeance with vengeance

-**Why should we turn it over to God?** He has the wisdom and the power to deal out retribution to evil-doers who have mistreated us

-We will sleep a lot better and be able to keep from getting bitter if we allow God to deal with the situation

-**What can we do in a situation where we have been mistreated?** Return kindness for evil

-**What will be the effect of that action?** We will "*heap burning coals on his head*"

-**How will that happen?** They will be shocked by our kindness and feel guilty

**V 21** – 24. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

-**Which are the hardest of these 24 commandments to follow?** (Various answers from the class)

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