

Romans 12:1-21 **Demonstration of Believing Faith toward the people around us**

Living Sacrifice Acceptable to God – Born-Again Focus

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Attitude toward self and others

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Diversity of Gifts of Grace in the Body of Christ

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Sincere Love results in good behavior

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Living Sacrifice Acceptable to God – Born-Again Focus [Romans 12:1-2]

- ✚ Our reasonable service to God is to present our bodies as holy living sacrifices ready for every good work. [Romans 12:1, 2 Corinthians 9:8-9, Colossians 1:9-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:21, 3:16-17, Hebrews 13:20-21]
- ✧ To do so requires a choice on our part, to deliberately turn from the ways of the world, and turn to the spiritual ways of God.
- ✧ We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds.
- ✧ That we may prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Attitude toward self and others [Romans 12:3]

- ✚ The renewing of our minds begins by realistic and honest evaluation of self. [Romans 12:3]
- ✧ Pride and high self esteem must go, because it puts us at enmity with God. [James 4:4]
 - ✧ God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. [James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5]
 - ✧ When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom. [Proverbs 11:2]
 - ✧ A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor. [Proverbs 29:23]
- ✧ When one seriously considers how he appears in the eyes of God, he will not think of himself more highly than he ought to think. [Romans 12:3]
- ✧ We must realize that it is God Who gives each of us his own measure of faith. [Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 12:11, Ephesians 2:8, 4:7]

Diversity of Gifts of Grace in the Body of Christ [Romans 12:4-8]

- ✚ To assist us in the renewing of our minds and to escape the trap of pride, Paul reminds us that though we are all of equal importance in the body of Christ, God in His great wisdom has established a diversity of gifts and abilities for the various members of the body for the benefit of all. [Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:5-30, Ephesians 4:7, 11-16]
- ✧ Each of us represent a different part of the Body of Christ, and as such we each have a different function in that Body.
- ✧ Responsibility regarding the gifts and enablements we receive from the Holy Spirit of God is confined to what each of us do with the gifts given specifically to ourselves.
- ✧ There is no room in the Body of Christ to insist that each member has the same gift or function.
- ✧ Since our gifts differ according to the grace and will of the Holy Spirit, our only aim in the exercise of the gift is to use it for the benefit of everyone in the Body.
- ✧ Specific referenced examples of gifts and enablements are as follows:
 - ✧ If **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.
 - ✧ Or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering.
 - ✧ He who **teaches**, in teaching.
 - ✧ He who **exhorts**, in exhortation.
 - ✧ He who **gives**, with liberality.
 - ✧ He who **leads**, with diligence
 - ✧ He who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.
- ✧ The entire focus in the exercise of gifts and enablements in the Body of Christ, is for the purpose of edifying the entire body to help it grow to perfection in Christ. [Ephesians 4:11-16]
- ✧ Therefore instead of being puffed up because of our gift or enablement, we should consider those around us and use it as a service to benefit the other members of the Body.
- ✧ Therefore, our motive is to be a servant to others, and not to feel superior to anyone.
- ✧ Remember we are called to be a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.
- ✧ Paul demonstrates that any gift used without love is useless. [1 Corinthians 13:1-3]

Sincere Love results in good behavior

- ✚ Final commandments for the Saints of God: [Romans 12:9-21]
- ✧ Let love be without hypocrisy (pretense).
- ✧ Abhor what is evil.
- ✧ Cling to what is good.
- ✧ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.
- ✧ Be not lagging in diligence.
- ✧ Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

- ✧ Continue rejoicing in hope.
- ✧ Be patient in tribulation.
- ✧ Continue steadfastly in prayer.
- ✧ Distribute to the needs of the saints.
- ✧ Be given to hospitality.
- ✧ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [\[Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27-28\]](#)
- ✧ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- ✧ Be of the same mind toward one another (show no partiality).
- ✧ Do not set your mind on high (prideful) things, but associate with the humble.
- ✧ Do not be wise in your own opinion.
- ✧ Repay no one evil for evil.
- ✧ Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
- ✧ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- ✧ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. [\[Deuteronomy 32:35\]](#)
- ✧ Therefore, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." [\[Proverbs 25:21-22, Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27-28\]](#)
- ✧ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.