**OFFER YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD**

Romans 12:1-21

Key Verse 12:1

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”*

**\*Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. In view of God’s mercy, what did Paul urge the Roman believers to do? (1) What does it mean to “*offer your bodies as a living sacrifice…to God?”* Why does Paul call this “true and proper worship”?
2. What is the pattern of this world? (Mk 8:38, Lk 9:41[[2]](#footnote-2)) and why should we not conform to it? (2a) How can we know what pleases God (what is His will)? (2b) What does it mean to “be transformed” and how does this come about? (Tit 3:5b, Acts 3:19[[3]](#footnote-3))
3. How should we regard ourselves and others in the church? (3-5) Why is this important? What gifts are given to the members of the body? (6-8) How should these gifts be used? (1Co 12:7[[4]](#footnote-4); Eph 4:12[[5]](#footnote-5)) What gift do you have, and how are you using it?
4. What must characterize Christian love (9-10)? With what mindset should we serve the Lord? (11) What other virtues mark our transformed minds? (12-13)
5. How should we respond to persecution? (14) How should we relate to others? (15-16) Why is humility so important? How should we deal with evil people? (17-21) What is the secret to overcoming evil?

1. Romans 12:1-2 helps us understand how to respond to God’s mercy of the righteousness God gave believers through faith in Jesus Christ. Believers must practically worship God by dedicating their lives in service to God through holy and pure living. This requires them to no longer conforming to the patterns of this world ruled by sin and evil, but to live a new life with a renewed mind. After saying this, in Romans 12:3 Paul starts to give instructions on how a believer who has made this commitment to God, should practically conduct himself in the church (v3-8) and broader community. (V9-21) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Mark 8:38** If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation. Luke 9:41 **“**You unbelieving and perverse generation.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Tit 3:5b** He saved us, not by the righteous deeds we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **Acts 3:19** “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **1 Cor 12:7**: Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **Eph 4:12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [↑](#footnote-ref-5)