

ROMANS 12

1. Because of God's mercy, what should all Christians do?

-Offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

2. Why is it important to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God?

-Because our bodies are still the center of sinful desires, emotional depression, and spiritual doubts.

3. Why is it wrong to try to get everything from God that we can?

-Because God has already given us everything.

4. If Christians want to be happy in life, what do God and Paul tell us that we should do?

-Give all that we have to God.

-Give all that we are to God.

5. What is the beauty of giving all that we are and have to God?

-We will gain more than we could ever imagine.

6. What does it mean that we should not be conformed to the world?

-He means that we should not let the people of this world influence us by their evil ways and thinking.

7. How do we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to

God, and be transformed by the renewing of our minds?

-By reading the Word of God and allowing it to renew our minds.

8. Why is humility the foundation for the use of our spiritual gifts?

-Because people are proud, and the degree to which we humble ourselves before God will be the same degree that God uses our gifts.

9. What is the beauty of humbling ourselves before God?

-We gain eternal life, and God will use us greatly on this earth.

10. What is the main barrier to humbling ourselves before God?

-Our flesh.

11. What is the illustration which God and Paul use to teach us about spiritual gifts?

-Our physical bodies.

-In this lesson, we are continuing with the theme:

-“The Righteousness of God Working in Us.”

-For the remaining verses at the end of Romans 12, God and Paul give us commands about how to live with Christians and non Christians.

-Before we believed in Christ, we were unable to obey these commands.

-Now that we are Christians, we must remember that we cannot obey these commands in our own strength.

-Now that we are Christians, how is it possible for us to obey the commands of God?

-Only through the power of God the Holy Spirit.

-The first group of commands are commands for us personally as Christians.

Let's read Romans 12:9

9-Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

-The Word of God says that our love must be sincere.

-We should not love people so that they will help us.

-We should not love people so that they will do things for us.

-We should love people even if we do not feel like it.

-How do we love people even if we do not feel like it?

-We should allow Christ in us to love others.

-In 1 John 4:8, the Word of God says that God is love.

-As Christians, even when we cannot love, the love of Christ in us can love and will love.

-There was a man who could not love those from a neighboring tribe because they burned down his house.

-But Christ in him loves all those from the neighboring tribe.

-And it is the love of Christ in us who can love all people through us.

-The love of people is imperfect, but the love of God is perfect.

-Even when we cannot love, Christ in us can love.

-In Romans 12:9, what does God command us to hate?

-Evil.

-Because God hates evil, we should hate evil also.

-Why should we hate evil?

-Because evil is the enemy of God and all people.

-The Word of God tells us to run away from the evil of idolatry, sexual immorality, and the love of money.

-In the English language and in other languages, the words “evil” and “sin” are different, and people think that sin is not as bad as evil.

-In other languages, however, the words “evil” and “sin” are the same word which helps us to understand that evil is sin and sin is evil.

-In God’s language also, evil is sin and sin is evil.

-Because evil is the enemy of God, evil must be our enemy as well.

-Because God hates evil, we should also hate evil.

-In Romans 12:9, what does God command us to cling to?

-That which is good.

-The flesh only wants evil, but our new nature in Christ only wants that which is good.

-When we do not listen to the world, but rather listen to the Word of God, that which is good will replace the evil in our lives.

-The second group of commands are commands for us regarding our family in the Body of Christ.

Let’s read Romans 12:10-13

10-Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11-Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12-Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13-Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

-What does Romans 12:10 say about how we must live in the family of Christ?

-If we believe in Christ, then we must be devoted to our fellow Christians in love.

-Jesus said this in John 13:35:

-“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

-More than this, the Word of God even says that if we do not love a brother or sister in Christ, then not only do we not love God, but we may also still be a child of the devil.

-1 John 2:9 say this: “Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.”

-1 John 3:10 says this: “This is how we know who the

children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister."

-1 John 4:20 says this: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

-These are very strong words from the Word of God which greatly encourage us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

-All Christians belong to the same family because we have one Father who is God the Father.

-We should honor and respect one another, listen to one other, and be willing to learn from one another.

-In God's family, everyone is important, and we need one another in order to live as a family in the way that God designed.

-What do God and Paul say regarding our work?

-That we should dedicate our work to serve God with all of our strength and with all of our heart.

-While we may not think that our work is important, it is

important to God if we dedicate our work to Him.

-Colossians 3:23 says this:

-"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

-If we dedicate our work to God, then we are working for God as well as for people.

-If we work for people, the people may not be appreciative of our work.

-But if we dedicate our work to God, God will certainly be pleased with us, for our work is mostly for Him.

-Even though the Jews persecuted him, Paul continued to work for the Lord.

-This is because Paul knew that he was working more for God than for people.

-Jesus also spoke of the importance of working for God our Father.

-In John 9:4, our Jesus said this:

-"As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

-As Christians, we should work for our God knowing that we only have a short time here on earth.

-Any work that is not for God is only for this life on earth, and will soon come to an end.

-Yet all of our work that is for God will be for eternity, and have eternal reward.

-As is written in 1 Corinthians 15:58, when we work for our God, our work is never in vain.

-When we have difficulties, we should not give up hope, but rather encourage and be encouraged by our fellow Christians.

-When are our difficulties easier?

-When they are shared with our family in Christ.

-As we should be devoted to love one another, we should also be devoted to pray for one another.

-God has saved us so that we can pray for non Christians that they may believe in Christ.

-God has also saved us so that we can pray for fellow Christians.

-When we pray for others, we are praying with Christ who lives in us, and our hearts will be blessed.

-Helping other people should be more important than helping ourselves.

-Sharing what we have with other people should be more important than keeping everything to ourselves.

-Before we believed in Christ, we lived to please ourselves.

-We were always thinking of ways to get more things for ourselves.

-But God crucified us with Jesus.

-The old selfish person that we used to be died when Jesus died.

-We have been raised with Jesus to share His loving, kind, and unselfish life.

-When Jesus lived on earth, He did not live to please Himself, but to help and please others.

-Because we Christians are now one with Jesus, we must live not for ourselves, but for God and for others.

-As Paul reported in Acts 20:35, Jesus Himself said that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

-Why are we more blessed when we give more than we receive?

-The answer is given by Christ Himself in Luke 6:38:

-“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

-Before the world, we may own a house and animals, but before God we are only managers of what God Himself has given us.

-The more we give to others, the more God will give to us.

-We cannot give more to God and others than what God gives to us.

-Therefore, if people have needs for clothing or medicine or a place to sleep, our God wants us to help them.

-As God through Paul says in Galatians 6:10:

-“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

-The third group of commands are commands for us regarding all people.

Let's read Romans 12:14-16

14- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15-Rejoice with those who rejoice; [weep with those who weep].

16-Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

-What does the Word of God command us to do to those who persecute us?

-Bless them and do not curse them.

-In Luke 6:28, our Lord Jesus said this: “Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

-Why is it important to bless others and not curse them when they hurt us?

-Because if we do not, then we will continue to suffer.

-The beauty of blessing others and not cursing them is that God Himself will free us from the hurt.

-What is the importance of rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep?

-When joys are shared with others, they are even more special.

-When weeping is shared with others, the burden is also shared, and therefore, lessened.

-And when we cry, God cries with us.

-Do you remember the story of Jesus when He raised Lazarus from the dead?

-When Jesus went to the tomb, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, and others were weeping.

-Even though Jesus knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead, why did He weep?

-Jesus wept because He shared the sorrow of Mary, Martha, and all of the other people.

-Jesus did not live for Himself, but for others.

-When life goes well for others, if we love them as Jesus loves them, then we will be happy for them and happy with them.

-When life is difficult for others, if we love them as Jesus loves them, then we will hurt for them and hurt with them.

-This is because all Christians belong to the same family, the family of Christ, and whatever happens to one member of the family affects everyone in the family.

-As 1 Corinthians 12:26 reminds us, “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

-In Romans 12:16, God and Paul command us to honor all people the same.

-This is because the Lord Jesus has died for everyone, including the poor and the weak.

-In God’s eyes, all people are important to Him.

-The fourth group of commands are commands for us regarding our enemies.

Let’s read Romans 12:17-21

17-Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

18-If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19-Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

20-On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

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

-Is it our responsibility to punish those who hurt us?

-No.

-Whose responsibility is it to punish people for their sins?

-Only God's.

-Will God punish every sin?

-Yes, because every sin is first against God, and second against people.

-Even more, as Christians, we are God's children, and God will punish those who do evil against His children.

-Even though Abel was dead and could not do anything to Cain, God did not allow Cain to go unpunished.

-God is a righteous judge and He will decide what punishment our persecutors should receive.

-How does Romans 12:21 say that we can overcome evil?

-Only by doing good.

-When His enemies told lies about Him, did the Lord Jesus fight and curse?

-No.

-When His enemies nailed Him to the cross, what did the Lord Jesus pray to our Father?

-“Father, forgive them.”

-As the Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:27: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”

-Before we believed in Christ, when people told lies about us and hurt us, it was easy for our flesh to strike back against them.

-While it is impossible for the flesh to love people who hurt us, now that we are Christians, God the Holy Spirit in us will not speak evil against others or hurt them, but rather help them.

-We need only allow our God within us to do so.

-Then our tongues will only say what the Lord would have them say.

-Then our hands will only do what the Lord would have them do.

-If we try and overcome evil with evil, we will never succeed.

-If, however, we overcome evil with the good of God, then we will succeed.