

Living in Community with the Gospel of Grace

Week 1 - Romans 12

? What is a unique talent you have that others may or may not know about you?

A Living Sacrifice / Renewal of Mind

Romans 12:1-8 (NIV)

¹Therefore, 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. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

? Spiritual worship can include the renewal of the mind and presenting our whole selves to Jesus. How does this relate to or expand beyond our typical Sunday worship?

? Verses 6-8 describe different gifts that the body of Christ may have. Which of these gifts do you see in yourself? Which gifts do you see in someone around the room?

? Do you ever see these gifts within a hierarchy and if so, how can we shift to view them as equally valuable in serving the body of Christ?

? In what ways is it challenging to not conform to this world and instead seek out the will of God?

"Believers enter [the world to come] and must realize that it, not this world, is now their true home. What Paul calls on us to do, then, is to live out the reality of our true, spiritual existence. But how do we take on board the values of the new age to which we belong? By "renewing the mind". This is a key idea in Paul's conception of the Christian life. Our minds are fallen; they have been corrupted through sin. When we come to Christ, we are transferred into a new realm of righteousness and life. Nevertheless, our minds are not immediately changed; our thinking still tends to follow the well-worn ruts of the old way of life. Thus, we are called to engage in the lifelong process of changing the way we think, and by changing the way we think, we change the way we live."

Encountering the Book of Romans, Douglas J. Moo - p. 177-178

Actions that Stem from Faith

Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)

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

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 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.

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.



How does the gospel message fuel us to practically display our faith in our lives?



This section of scripture states a number of ways that faith can be lived out. Has there been an area in recent weeks where you've been struggling to believe the gospel?



In what ways is it hard or easy to leave justice to the "wrath of God" in order to live peaceably with those around you?

For Discussion and Accountability

- ? What was God telling you through this passage this week? What did you need to hear?
- ? Are you celebrating the unique way God has created and gifted you? Or are you living in shame, focused on what gifts you lack?
- ? How can we help you celebrate the way God has created and gifted you?