

Studies In Romans

(Romans 12:1-9)

1. In what way are we to present our bodies to God?

As living sacrifices: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”* (Romans 12:1).

- By God’s mercy (**II Corinthians 4:1** and **Ephesians 2:1-5**).
- Present your bodies (**Romans 6:13**, **I Corinthians 6:13-20**, and **Philippians 1:20**).
- A living sacrifice (**Hebrews 13:15-16** and **I Peter 2:5-9**).
- Reasonable (**I Peter 3:15**) service (**Hebrews 12:28**).

2. Should we be conformed to this world?

No: *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”* (Romans 12:2).

- Don’t be a conformer to the world (**Deuteronomy 18:9-14**, **I Kings 11:1-8**, **Psalms 1:1-2**, **Psalms 119:104**, **Proverbs 1:10-19**, **Proverbs 4:14-16**, **Proverbs 13:20**, **Proverbs 29:27**, **Jeremiah 15:17**, **I Corinthians 3:18-19**, **I Corinthians 15:33**, **II Corinthians 6:14-18**, **Galatians 1:3-4**, **Ephesians 5:11**, **James 4:4**, **I Peter 4:1-5**, and **I John 2:15-17**).
- Renewal of mind leads to change in action (**Ezekiel 18:31**, **Ephesians 4:17-32**, and **Colossians 3:10**).
- Prove [try; test; discern; cf. **Luke 12:56** and **I Thessalonians 5:21**] what is that good, acceptable, perfect, will of God (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

3. In this context, in what way should we not think of ourselves?

More highly than we ought to think: *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith”* (Romans 12:3).

- Be humble (**Proverbs 16:18**, **Philippians 2:3-8**, and **James 4:6-10**).
- Don’t think too much of yourself (**Luke 18:10-14**).
- Even the “natural” abilities you have are God given (**I Peter 4:11**).

4. What kind of difference should there be among members of the Lord's body?
In the church, we have different offices [functions]: "*For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office*" (**Romans 12:4**).

- Unity at all times (**Psalms 133:1, Matthew 12:30, Matthew 12:46-50, Mark 3:24, Luke 11:23, John 17:20-23, Acts 2:46, Romans 12:16, Romans 15:6, Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 1:10, I Corinthians 4:17, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 1:27, Philippians 2:2, Philippians 3:16, and II John 9-11**).
- Yet, some will be different in functions. Some will be elders (**I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9**), deacons (**I Timothy 3:8-13**), evangelists (**II Timothy 4:1-5**), teachers (**Ephesians 4:11 and Titus 2:3-5**), weak or strong (**Romans 15:1-3**), supporters (**Romans 15:1-4**), etc.
- There is only ONE body [church] (**Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:4, and Colossians 3:15**; cf. **Matthew 16:18 and Romans 16:16**).

5. Being one body in Christ, who else are we supposed to be members of?
One another: "*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another*" (**Romans 12:5**).

- **I Corinthians 10:17, I Corinthians 12:12-27, and Ephesians 4:25.**

6. During the temporary age of spiritual gifts (cf. I Corinthians 12:1-13:13), did everyone have the same gifts?

No: "*(6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; (7) Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; (8) Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness*" (**Romans 12:6-8**).

- Spiritual gifts were imparted by the Holy Spirit after the laying on of Apostle's hands (**Acts 8:12-24, Acts 19:1-7, Romans 1:11, and I Corinthians 12:11**).

7. What is "dissimulation"?

"*Let love be without dissimulation...*" (**Romans 12:9**).

- The word [Strong's #505] means insincere; without hypocrisy.
- Love for God and brethren is to be real, sincere, pure (**II Corinthians 6:6, Ephesians 6:24, I Timothy 1:5, I Peter 1:22, and I Peter 4:8**).

8. How should Christians feel about evil?

We should abhor it: *“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good”* (**Romans 12:9**).

- **Psalms 26:4-5, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 101:3, Psalms 119:163, Amos 5:14-15, and Hebrews 1:8-9.**
- Cleave to that which is good (**Acts 11:23** and **I Thessalonians 5:15**).