

Romans Chapter 12

V 1-2 Calls then brothers. Body is a living sacrifice- complete surrender to God. We are a body-soul unity. The body is not left out of worship. This is obedience. He beseeches them; not a command. Your body is *presented* just like the sacrifices were under the Law. But now it's yourself, not an animal sacrifice I Cor 6:20. Voluntary act. Our sacrifice is living; the animal sacrifices were dead. I Cor 6:19. Jesus gave His Body and Spirit for us. So it is reasonable and acceptable.

Not only that, but we must have a life separate from the world. Old things have passed away and now we have new things. By following Christ and being filled with the Spirit – mind is transformed. We are changed , transformed over time. 2 Cor 3:18. Metanoia.

This is God's Will for us.

V 3-8 : you should not think too highly of yourself. Paul says this by the grace given to him. Modesty, humility. You are *given* gifts from God. They are not of yourselves. The posture should be thankfulness not boasting and pride.

We all have different functions but are one body; the Body of Christ. The gifts are not for us. They have to be used for the building up of the Body. The real union of believers is through the Spirit. 1 Cor 12: 28-29.

V 9-13: Loving the brethren. Intimate connections between members of the body. Hate evil things. Cling to the good. Praying for others; caring for them according to their needs. Hospitality was very important in eastern cultures.

V 14: this is not confined to our friends and fellow church members ; we should pray for our enemies and want their good. Matt 5:44. Goes against our nature ; transformation and renewal.

V 15: also sympathy with others.

Should not have the pride of intellect Isaiah 5:21.

Live peaceably and take no vengeance. Vengeance belongs to the Lord. Deut 32:35. We leave our enemies in the hands of God. By being good to them you may change them.

Overcome evil with good.