

# ROMANS

From Wretchedness to Righteousness

## Study 18

How it Changes us on the Outside

Romans 12:1-8

True Worship Through Transformed Relationships

### Recap

Romans 11 talks about the final inclusion of the Jews. Romans 12 addresses True Worship Through Transformed Relationships.

Part 1 of 4: Serving God (Romans 12:1-2)

### Verse 1

Romans 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.

**1) a) Objective question. Choose the appropriate answer. Based on verse 1 and the video lecture, which of the following is “true and proper worship”?**

- A. To offer your bodies as a dead sacrifice
- B. To offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**
- C. To offer animal bodies as dead sacrifice
- D. To offer other people’s bodies as living sacrifice
- E. To offer other people’s bodies as dead sacrifice

**b) Discussion question. What does it mean to be a “living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God”?**

**Simple answer: To live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God and different/set apart (holy) compared to non-believers.**

**c) Fill in the blanks. What is important to know about this “sacrifice” of our bodies according to John Piper and the video lecture?**

The sacrifice of our bodies is	<b>Not a Sacrifice for sin</b>	-that’s done!
Christ the	<b>Perfect sacrifice</b>	<b>-there is only ONE!- has offered himself in my place (once for all)</b>

**d) Comprehension question. Do we need to “perfect” ourselves first before serving God?**

**No, we can serve God in any capacity without “correcting” ourselves first. The only perfect sacrifice- Jesus was already given.**

e) Fill in the blanks. According to the video lecture, fill in the meaning of “worship” according to its original definition in Greek?

<i>Latreia</i> (Greek)	Service	Servitude	(Servanthood)	Acts of worshipping
------------------------	---------	-----------	---------------	---------------------

f) Fill in the blanks. According to the video lecture, “true and proper” means logical, reasonable, and rational. Fill in the blanks for Professor Cranfield’s comment on “true worship”.

i)

True worship is	rational	Not in the sense of being consistent with	
The rationality of man but in the sense of being consistent with a			Proper understanding
Of the	Truth of God	Revealed in	Jesus Christ
There is indeed	Genuine inwardness	of	True worship
But it is	Inseparable from	a no less-genuine	outwardness

ii)

The intelligent understanding of		worship	, that is,
The worship which is consonant with the		Truth of the gospel	Is indeed nothing less
Than the offering of	One’s whole self	In the course of one’s	Concrete living
In one’s inward	thoughts, feelings and aspirations		But also in one’s
Words and deeds			

iii) John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must	worship in spirit and truth.”
---	-------------------------------

### Verse 2

Romans 12:2

Do 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.

2) a) Objective question. Choose the appropriate answer, can be more than one. What are the C’s that falls under the “pattern of this world” according to the video lecture?

- A. Christ
- B. Crowd
- C. Compromise

- D. Correctable
- E. Contentment
- F. Conformity
- G. Creativity
- H. Credible
- I. Condominium
- J. Children

**b) Objective question. Choose the appropriate answer. There is a difference between the word “conform” and “transform”, which of the animals represent the picture image of the following words according to the video lecture?**

**i) “Conform”**

- A. Caterpillar/Butterfly
- B. Camel
- C. Crocodile
- D. Catfish
- E. Chameleon
- F. Cougar
- G. Cobra

**ii) “Transformed”**

- A. Caterpillar/Butterfly
- B. Camel
- C. Cow
- D. Cheetah
- E. Chameleon
- F. Chicken
- G. Copycat

**c) Fill in the blanks. According to verse 2, it seems that believers are “transformed by the renewing of (our) mind”. It seems that like computers and smartphones, our brain needs to be updated to the best and latest format. Which format is this according to the video lecture and 1 Corinthians 2:16?**

To be transformed, our mind needs to be renewed into the	Mind of Christ
For us to mimic and have the Christ-like mindset	

<p><b><u>Quick Verse Reference</u></b>          1 Corinthians 2:16          New International Version          16 for,</p>
--

“Who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.”

**d) Discussion question. According to verse 2 and the video lecture, the goal of the transformation and renewed mind is so that we can “test and approve what God’s will is”, which means discernment followed by obedience. What happens when one does not have a renewed mind?**

We won’t be able to know what God wants, what His will is.

Part 2 of 4: Serving in the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8)

### **Verse 3 (How do we view ourselves?)**

Romans 12:3

For 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.

**3) Discussion question. In verse 3, Paul asks us to think properly about ourselves according to the “faith/measure of faith” given to us by God. What does the “measure of faith” mean according to the video lecture?**

All of us believers have the same amount of faith (one tablespoon worth of Jesus), so no hierarchy, all equal. Eg. preachers are not more ‘high’ than normal believers.

### **Background Info**

So “measure of faith” (metron pisteuw) is the “standard” by which we measure/evaluate/estimate ourselves - and that standard is the SAME saving faith (one faith) that is shared with all believers.. so that we don’t start comparing ourselves with each other by OUR own standards. (Which often leads to us thinking either more highly or more lowly of ourselves)- Alex Tan

### **Verse 4-6 (How do we view our gifts?)**

Romans 12:4-6a

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts,

**4) Fill in the blanks. According to verses 4-6 and the video lecture, who is the giver of grace? What are the means for the gifts of grace? And what are the purposes for these gifts?**

Gifts of Grace (Charismata)		
Giver	Means	Purpose
God Himself	Different gifts	Building up the ONE body of Christ

**Verse 6-8 (How do we use our gifts?)**

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if 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.

**5)a) Fill in the blanks. According to verses 6-8 and the video lecture, what are the different gifts?**

prophesying	serving	teaching	encouraging
giving	leading	Showing mercy	

**b) Fill in the blanks. According to verses 6-8, we are to serve generously, diligently, and cheerfully. Expound on what they mean according to the video lecture.**

i) Generosity	ii) Diligence	iii) Cheerfulness
<i>Haplotēs</i> (Greek)	<i>Spouōs</i> (Greek)	<i>Hilarōtes</i> (Greek)
Simplicity	Earnestness	Graciousness
Sincerity	Enthusiasm	Without Grudge
Purity of Mind		

**Takeaway for Romans 12:1-8**

Part 1 of 4: Serving God (Romans 12:1-2)

Part 2 of 4: Serving in the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8)

## Serving in the Body of Christ (vv3-8)

1. How do we view ourselves?
2. How do we view our gifts?
3. How do we use our gifts?

### Case Studies

#### Case 1

Boon Meng Wen can understand and quote bible verses from the heart, he is also successful in his business and he thinks that those other people who cannot do both are incompetent and make poor decisions in life. Therefore, he thinks that he knows better than those who aren't as successful as him and he should be leading in church ministries and people should listen to his opinions, or else they are stupid.

6) a) Discussion question. Why is Meng Wen mistaken?

Meng Wen is thinking too highly of himself.

#### Model Answer

Paul tells us to avoid being "high-minded" about ourselves. Despite all the warnings about the danger of low self-esteem, the real danger is self-centeredness and egocentricity. Most of the world's religions have identified humanity's worst problem as stemming from inflated views of one's own importance and abilities and rights (Buddhism is particularly insistent on this point.) We are all prone to exaggerate our own level of wisdom and competence and sincerity and power. As Christians, we must be able to avoid this. C.S.Lewis said he knew of no one except Christians who ever admitted to being proud and conceited. Paul shows us that we must always be on the lookout for this danger. (This is important to set up his statements on spiritual gifts in vv.6-8. An inflated view of the self tends to make us think we can do all things well, and it keeps us from forming interdependent relationships.)

### Case 1.2

Toh Yeoh Tah finds it hard to understand the bible and is struggling. She doesn't sing well, cannot play any instruments, and is not good with any digital technology. She also is struggling with some sins in her life so she refrains from serving in church. She thinks that anyone else serve also better than her.

b) Discussion question. Why is Yeoh Tah mistaken?

Yeoh Tah thinks too lowly of herself.

### Model Answer

We are to think "soberly." Sobriety here means just what we think of as an alternative to drunkenness. To be sober means to be rigorously accurate, completely in touch with reality. Paul does not say here "be humble" or "prefer others as better than yourselves." At this point he warns against thinking less of your abilities than is warranted as well. We are to think straight about ourselves, not too low or too high.

### Case 2

Below is the description of the different gifts listed in Romans 12.

**Prophecy** probably is not the gift of giving divinely inspired messages from God. Some places in the New Testament, the prophet seems to give divine messages like in the Old Testament (e.g. Agabus in the book of Acts), but in I Cor.12:28 Paul puts the prophets in a subordinate position to apostles, who had divine authority. Also, here the prophet is told to prophesy "according to the measure of his faith." Many people read that as meaning "the amount of his faith," but literally the Greek reads "according to the analogy of his faith," a word that means the standard. In other words, Paul is saying that the prophet must not prophesy in such a way as to contradict the doctrine of the Christian faith. Now, if prophecy was a divine word direct from God, why would such a rule be laid down? It could be that the word "prophecy" could have more than one meaning. Here it seems to mean preaching, of anointed utterance.

**Service.** This is the word *diakonia*, which means "practical service." People with gifts of service are good at the practical, and good at administration. They are great team workers and do not need the spotlight.

**Teaching.** This is the gift of making truth very clear and understandable. A good teacher may not be a good preacher and vice versa. And teaching gifts can vary greatly — some are better in small groups, other in large groups, some with children, some with peers, and so on.

**Encouragement.** This is the word *parakaleo*, which means to "come alongside."

Encouragement is a good translation, but it also includes most of what today we would call “counseling” — support, inspiration. But encouragers do not necessarily have to be trained and formal counselors. They can serve as advisors and supporters and greeters and welcomers in many ways.

**Giving.** Persons with this gift not only enjoy giving in unusual proportions, but are extremely wise in their gifts and their generosity is spiritually very fruitful.

**Leadership.** Leaders are people with the gift of getting people to follow them. They can put a vision before a group and inspire them to get there. Mercy. This is a gift of people who are specifically moved to work with the poor, the sick, the weak, the prisoner, the addicted, the elderly, and so on.

**b) Discussion question. Which gift do you think you have? Or another member have? Please share and discuss! You may use the method below to help you discern.**

Discern the “steps” or ways that Paul says one should take in order to discern one’s spiritual gifts.	Your answer
1. <b>Self-examination.</b> Paul says “take a sober look at yourself” with regard to gifts. So to begin with, we look at our own hearts to begin to discover gifts. What do we look at?	
A. We can look at our <i>feelings</i> — what do we enjoy doing? What kind of ministry is satisfying and attractive to you?	
B. We can look at our <i>perceptions</i> of needs — what problems do you most notice? Do you notice and feel burdened for the poor? For people with counseling needs? Do you feel the church is too disorganized? In other words, it is possible that you are especially sensitive to the kinds of needs God has called you to meet.	
C. We can look at our <i>effectiveness</i> — are we any good at what we enjoy? Do people get helped? Ask those who know you, to be sure that your judgment is “sober” and rigorously accurate.	
2. Experience. In v.6, Paul says, “having... let him use it” In general, you don’t learn your gifts before you do ministry, but you learn your gifts as you minister. You may think you have a set of gifts in a particular area — well, work in that area. You may come to revise your understanding of your gifts as you do ministry. It is best to try all kinds of ministry as a way to learn your spiritual “aptitudes.”	



3. Study the Biblical lists. In vv.6-8 Paul gives an illustrative list of spiritual gifts. Why does he do that? We know from I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 that this list does not contain all the gifts Paul knows of. Probably the gift-list was there to let the readers take an inventory. It is hard to discern your own gifts if you don't have many categories of spiritual ability through which to look at yourself. So it is helpful and important to look at the spiritual gift lists and characters of the Bible so you can better process your own experience.