

## An Offering to God Romans 12:1-8

Because of the overwhelming grace and mercy of God granted to us through the faithful work of Jesus Christ (Romans 1-11), the only reasonable response is to offer God all that we have and all that we are as an act of worship (Romans 12:1-2). In order for us to worship well through our service to others, God has placed gifts within His children through His Spirit (Romans 12:3-8), making each of us unique and each of us necessary.

### “Therefore...”

Theology (1-11): God is righteous...  
in JUDGMENT (1:18-3:20)  
in JUSTIFICATION (3:21-5:21)  
in SANCTIFICATION (6-8)  
in HISTORY (9-11)

Application (12-16): God is righteous...  
in and through OUR LIVES (12-16)

### Offer yourself to God

- “Present” your body
- Don’t offer yourself to the world
- Become transformed

...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. —Philippians 2:12–13

### Offer your gifts to God

- We are one body with many members

John 17:20–21

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

- We are one body with many members
- Every member is gifted
  - ✓ What are spiritual gifts?

As each one has received a gift (*charisma*), employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. —1 Peter 4:10

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  
—1 Corinthians 12:7

Spiritual gifts are gracious gifts from God's Spirit, bestowed on believers in Jesus Christ for the benefit of the Church and the glory of God in the world.

- ✓ How many gifts are there?
  - Romans – 7
  - 1 Corinthians – 17
  - Ephesians – 4 or 5
  - 1 Peter – 2
- ✓ Are gifts different from natural talents?

“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship....”  
—Exodus 31:2–3

Romans 11:36

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

- Every member is unique
- Every member is necessary

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. —1 Peter 4:10

## Questions for Romans Sermon #25B – 12:1-8

*Note: these questions have been written for small groups studying Romans together. You can also adapt these questions for your family or for personal study.*

### REVIEW & OVERVIEW

1. Read through chapters 12-16 in one sitting.
2. What transition occurs in 12:1 (note: the "therefore" in 12:1 marks a significant change in the direction of the book)? What is the relationship between chs. 1-11 and 12-16 (cf. Eph. 4:1)? Can you notice a change in the style of writing in ch. 12?

### OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

3. What does it mean to "present" our bodies (cf. Rom 6:12-13)? What exactly are we presenting and how do we do it?
4. What does it mean to be "conformed" to this world? How does this happen?
5. What does it mean to be "transformed" and how do we pursue this process? What is God's part and what is our part?
6. Define "spiritual gifts" (cf. 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor 12:7).
  - a. Does every believer have a "spiritual gift"?
  - b. Why do people have different gifts?
  - c. Are spiritual gifts different than natural abilities or aptitudes?
  - d. Do some people have more gifts (quantity)?
  - e. Do some people have more important gifts (quality)?

## **APPLICATION**

7. What is your gift or role in the body of Christ?
  - a. Why should you take the time to find it and exercise it?
  - b. Is there a relationship between knowing your gift and the command to “present” in 12:1?
  - c. What will you do this week to discover or use your spiritual gift(s)?

**Memorize Romans 12:1-2**

### **Additional Questions**

1. What questions came to your mind during this sermon? Write them down and bring them up with your group.
2. What is the big idea of the book of Romans?
3. Sketch a quick outline of Romans chapters 1-11. What is Paul's primary point in each section of your outline?
4. What is the "will of God" for you in this context and throughout the NT (2 Cor. 7:9,10; Eph. 6:6; 1 Thess. 4:3; Heb. 10:36; 1 Pet. 2:15; 4:2,19; 5:2)?
5. What does it mean to "think" with "sound judgment" (12:3)?