

# You ARE the Body of Christ

## Romans 12

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Colossians 1:24-29



## Words Have Meanings

- The different meanings of the word “love” as defined by God.
  - Our **love** for each other - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
  - Our **love** for God - 1 John 5:3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14
  - Those who do not love Christ, as defined by God’s Word, are accursed! (1 Corinthians 16:33)
- What meaning do we give to “body” when God uses it in “the Body of Christ”?

## From Doctrine to Practicality

- Romans 1-11 - Classroom work - the study of doctrine.
- Conclusion: Romans 11:36 - circle the prepositions.

## Thinking Reasonably (Romans 12:1-2)

- **THEREFORE** . . . points back to ALL the mercies of chapters 1-11 (See handout - WHAT MERCIES!)
- God is rich in mercy. (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- God’s mercy is abundant! (Psalm 103:1-17; 86:5, 15; Numbers 14:18)
- God’s mercy is new every morning! (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- God is merciful to those who **FEAR** Him. (Psalm 103:11, 13, 17)
- God is merciful on those who keep His commandments. (Exodus 20:6; 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 7:9; 5:10; Daniel 9:4)
- In view of all these mercies what would any **reasonable** person do.
- **THEREFORE** . . .
  - ① Present your **bodies** as . . .
  - ② A living **sacrifice** . . .

- ③ Holy . . .
- ④ Acceptable to God . . .
- ⑤ Do not be **conformed** to the world, but . . .
- ⑥ Be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your **mind** . . .
- ⑦ **Prove** that God’s will is good, acceptable, and perfect.

## How One Thinks of Him/Herself (Romans 12:3)

- **THEREFORE** . . .
  - Do not think highly of yourself. Deny self. (Luke 9:23)
  - Think soberly (seriously; reasonably).
- How did Paul think of himself? (Eph 3:7-8; 2 Cor 12:7-11; 1 Cor 15:9-10; Philippians 3:1-7; )

## Who YOU Are (Romans 12:4-5)

- **YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST.** Paul was speaking to the local church at Rome. (Romans 1:7)
  - YOU **ARE** . . . (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 5:30-32)
  - God uses the word “body” to describe a local church (an asseby of saints).
    - ★ A body has ONE HEAD. Christ is the HEAD. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Colossians 2:19)
    - ★ A body has many members. (1 Corinthians 12:12,14, 20, 27)
      - NO ONE claiming to be a Christian can say I do not need to be a member of the Body (local church). (1 Cor 12:15-23)
      - God places each Christian into the Body as it pleases Him. (1 Corinthians 12:18)
    - ★ A body has many members and YET it is ONE. **Meditate.**
    - ★ A body, *by definition*, does everything **together**.
    - ★ A body **grows** together. A “member” **cannot** grow apart from the body. (Ephesians 4:16)

## Rebirth Brings New “DNA” (Romans 12:6-8)

- At rebirth we are “re-created” into new creatures. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Each Christian, each **member** is unique.
- ALL Christians are given gifts. (Ephesians 4:7-16)



- There are a **diversity** of gifts, differences of ministries, diversity of activities BUT ONE GOD who bestows **His** gifts unto each of His elect. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- Gifts are give for the PROFIT of the whole body. (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- Each **member** is **responsible**, **obligated**, and **accountable** to God for using the grace and gifts of God within a local church. (Matthew 25:14-30; Hebrews 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

### How Church People Are to Live (Romans 12:9-21)

- What will you do with the following **25** exhortations given to us from God in how **we**, the assembly of saints, the church, the Body is to conduct ourselves with the Body?
  - Each exhortation, except 2, are PRESENT PARTICIPLES.
  - We have two choices today concerning these exhortations:
    - ★ Either you will choose to obey OR
    - ☆ We will choose to ignore and disobey.
1. **LOVE** without hypocrisy. Self-denying love. (1 John 3:16)
  2. **ABHOR** evil – “have a horror of” - Proverbs 9:10; 8:13
  3. **CLING** to what is good - “glued to” - Deuteronomy 6:24; 10:12-13; Romans 7:12; Philippians 4:8
  4. **BE** kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly kindness.
    - ✘ Strong words for those who do not - 1 John 2:9-11; 3:10, 14-15
  5. **IN HONOR** giving preference to one another. (Luke 14:10; Philip 2:3)
  6. **NOT LAGGING** in **DILIGENCE**. Those who **are always** diligent inherit the promises of God. (Heb 6:11-12; see Heb 11:6; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
  7. **BE FERVENT** in Spirit - “to boil with heat” - use our gifts fervently (Acts 18:25); pray fervently for each other (Epaphras-Col 4:12-13, James 5:16; love each other fervently (1 Peter 1:22; 4:8).
  8. **SERVE** (be a *doulos*) the Lord.
    - Remember Matthew 25:21 and 25:30.
  9. **REJOICE** in hope - “full of cheer” - ALWAYS (Philippians 4:4)
    - “And **everyone** who has this hope purifies him/herself just as He is pure.” (1 John 3:3)
  10. **BE PATIENT** (persevere; endure) in tribulation. (ὑπομονή *hupomone*) “In the NT this is a characteristic of a man/woman who is not swerved from his **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty to faith and piety** by even the greatest trials and sufferings.”
    - See Luke 8:15

11. **CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN PRAYER** - “to be devoted to”; “continue all the time in” - “Men are **obligated** to pray always.” (Jesus Christ, Luke 8:1) - Pray admits/acknowledges our helplessness.
12. **DISTRIBUTING** to the needs of the saints. We own NOTHING. All that we have is from God. We are to be good stewards of God’s gifts and use them to the profit of our brothers and sisters. (1 John 3:17-18)
13. **BE** given to **HOSPITALITY** “pursuing the love toward strangers” - We are to pursue helping others. - See Hebrews 13:2. We are “to be hospitable to one another **without** grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:9)
14. **BLESS** those who persecute you. (PRESENT; ACTIVE; IMPERATIVE)
  - “persecute” - those who are and continually persecuting you” (Matthew 5:44; Exodus 23:5-6)
15. **BLESS** DO NOT CURSE. A second time for emphasis! Bless those who gossip, slander, persecute, etc. you.
  - PRESENT; ACTIVE; IMPERATIVE
16. **REJOICE** with those who rejoice. (PRESENT; ACTIVE) Keep on rejoicing with those who are rejoicing. (Prov 17:5; 1 Cor 12:26)
17. **WEEP** with those who weep. Sympathy; empathy; compassion. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
18. **BE** of the **SAME MIND** toward one another. Not showing partiality to anyone. (Romans 15:5; James 2:1-4, 9; 1 Timothy 5:21)
19. **DO NOT** be **HIGH MINDED**; Associated with the HUMBLE. (James 2:2; be slaves to one another - Matthew 20:21-28; 3 John 9; Philip 2:3-8)
20. **DO NOT** be wise in your own eyes. (Proverbs 3:5-7; 26:12; 29:20)
21. **REPAY** no one evil for evil. Remember to bless - NOT curse. See Isaiah 50:6.
22. **RESPECT** what is right. (Isaiah 5:20; Philippians 4:8-9)
23. **LIVE** in peace with everyone. (Hebrews 12:14) - Forgive, do not hold grudges; settle disagreements quickly; pursue reconciliation.
24. **DO NOT AVENGE** yourself - “not” is μή me {may} expresses an **absolute** denial. It is the strongest **negative** in the Greek language. **VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD ALONE!** (Deut 32:35; 2 Sam 22:48; Psalm 94:1; Nahum 1:2; Hebrews 10:30)
25. **OVERCOME** evil with good. **DO GOOD TO YOUR ENEMIES!**
  - ★ Romans 5:6, 8, 10.

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I choose to be a doer of God’s Word.

I choose to ignore and disobey these exhortation.