



A STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF
ROMANS

upgrade



CHAPTER 12

Jesse Curney III, Sr. Pastor
New Mercies Christian Church

upgrade



LIVING OUT GOD'S MERCY

Romans 12:1–21



Romans chapter 12 is one of the richest and most practical passages in all of Scripture.

- Up to this point in his letter, Paul has spent eleven chapters laying a solid theological foundation, teaching us about the depth of human sin, the majesty of God's grace, and the power of salvation in Jesus Christ.
- But in Romans 12, Paul makes a transition. He moves from belief to behavior, from doctrine to duty, from what God has done for us to how we should now live for Him.



ROMANS 12:1 – 2 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



1. Presenting Ourselves to God (vv. 1–2)

Worship is a surrender of body, mind, and spirit; transformed by renewal.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Discussion Question:

- What does it mean for you to worship God with your whole life, not just on Sunday?



1. Presenting Ourselves to God (vv. 1–2)

Text: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice...”

Exegesis:

- *Therefore* (οὖν) connects to Romans 1–11: doctrine leads to duty.
- *Present* (παραστήσαι) was used for offering sacrifices; here it is self-offering.
- *Living sacrifice* contrasts with dead temple animals. Believers, alive in Christ (Rom 6:11), continually yield themselves to God.



- *Reasonable service* (λογικὴν λατρείαν) — worship that is thoughtful, intelligent, rooted in gospel truth.

Renewal of the mind implies a radical reshaping of thought to align with God's will.

Theological Note:

Worship is not confined to ritual; it is the total life of a believer, dedicated and transformed.

Application:

Worship is a daily lifestyle, not a Sunday event.



ROMANS 12:3 (NKJV)

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.



2. Humility and Right Thinking (v. 3)

Paul calls for sober judgment and humility, warning against arrogance.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3 (NKJV)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Discussion Question:

- Where do you struggle with pride in life or ministry?



2. Humility and Right Thinking (v. 3)

Text: “Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think...”

Exegesis:

- Paul uses *think* (φρονεῖν) four times for emphasis: right mindset matters.
- *Measure of faith* may mean the capacity given by God to exercise spiritual gifts in proportion to faith.
- Paul reminds them: even his apostolic authority is by “grace” (χάρις).



Theological Note:

Spiritual pride destroys unity; humility sustains it.

Application:

Leaders must remember their authority is stewardship, not entitlement.



ROMANS 12:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.



3. Unity in Diversity (vv. 4–5)

The body of Christ has many members with different roles, but one purpose.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 (NKJV)

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

Discussion Question:

- How can you better honor the role of others in the church body?



3. Unity in Diversity (vv. 4–5)

Text: “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function...”

Exegesis:

- Paul borrows the body metaphor (**σῶμα**) used in Greco-Roman culture, but redefines it around Christ.
- Believers are “one body in Christ”; the source of unity is Christ, not culture or heritage.
- *Individually members of one another* stresses interdependence, not independence.



Theological Note:

The church is not uniformity but unity in diversity, reflecting God's design.

Application:

Believers must reject competition and embrace cooperation.



ROMANS 12:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.



4. Using Spiritual Gifts Faithfully (vv. 6–8)

Every believer has a gift given by grace to be used for service.

1 PETER 4:10 (NKJV)

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Discussion Question:

- Which spiritual gift has God given you, and how are you using it for His glory?



4. Using Spiritual Gifts Faithfully (vv. 6–8)

Text: “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...”

Exegesis:

- **Gifts** (*χαρίσματα*) are grace-bestowals from God, not earned.
- **Paul lists seven gifts:** prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy.
- **Each gift carries a command:** *prophecy according to faith, lead with diligence, give with generosity, show mercy with cheerfulness.*



Theological Note:

Diversity of gifts builds unity when exercised in love (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11–12).

Application:

Use your gift in the Spirit's strength, not for self-glory.



ROMANS 12:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.



5. Love Without Hypocrisy (vv. 9–13)

Genuine love must be sincere, expressed in hospitality, kindness, and care.

JOHN 13:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Discussion Question:

- What are some practical ways you can show sincere love this week?



5. Love Without Hypocrisy (vv. 9–13)

Text: “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Exegesis:

- *Love* (ἀγάπη) is to be genuine, not counterfeit (ἀνυπόκριτος).
- Paul contrasts two responses: “hate evil” (ἀποστυγοῦντες) and “cling” (κολλώμενοι) — literally, glue yourselves to what is good.
- **Practical examples:** brotherly affection, zeal, endurance in tribulation, prayer, hospitality.



Theological Note:

Christian ethics are love-driven, not law-driven.

Application:

True Christian love is costly, visible, and consistent.



ROMANS 12:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.



6. Responding to Persecution (vv. 14–16)

Bless those who persecute you; rejoice and weep with others in empathy.

MATTHEW 5:44 (NKJV)

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Discussion Question:

- Why is blessing those who mistreat us one of the hardest commands to follow?



6. Responding to Persecution (vv. 14–16)

Text: “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

Exegesis:

- *Bless* (εὐλογεῖτε) means “to speak well of, to invoke blessing.”
- Reflects Jesus’ teaching in Matt 5:44 — Paul echoes Christ’s Sermon on the Mount.
- **Identification with others:** rejoice with the rejoicing, weep with the weeping. This models the empathy of Christ.



Theological Note:

The church embodies Christ when it absorbs hostility with grace.

Application:

Our response to mistreatment reveals Christ more than our response to comfort.



ROMANS 12:17–20 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

²⁰ Therefore

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”



7. Pursuing Peace & Rejecting Revenge

(vv. 17–20)

Never repay evil for evil; leave room for God’s justice; show kindness to enemies.

PROVERBS 20:22 (NKJV)

Do not say, “I will recompense evil”; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

Discussion Question:

- What is one way you can demonstrate peace or kindness to someone who wronged you?



7. Pursuing Peace & Rejecting Revenge

(vv. 17–20)

Text: “Repay no one evil for evil... If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Exegesis:

- Paul sets boundaries: peace may not always be possible, but the believer’s duty is to attempt it.
- *Give place to wrath* means leave space for God’s righteous judgment.
- Quoting Proverbs 25:21–22, Paul instructs kindness toward enemies as a means of potential conviction.



Theological Note:

Vengeance belongs to God, not man. Our call is peace; His prerogative is justice.

Application:

Kindness to enemies can soften hearts more than retaliation ever could.



ROMANS 12:21 (NKJV)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



8. Overcoming Evil with Good (v. 21)

Christians overcome evil not by retaliation but by doing good consistently.

GALATIANS 6:9 (NKJV)

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Discussion Question:

- Where can you intentionally overcome evil with good in your daily life?



8. Overcoming Evil with Good (v. 21)

Text: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Exegesis:

- *Overcome* (νικά) is from *nikao* (to conquer, to prevail).
- Evil is not defeated by greater force of evil, but by the greater power of good in Christ.
- **The cross itself is the ultimate example:** Christ overcame evil through sacrificial love.



Theological Note:

Christian ethics subvert worldly patterns — victory is found in love, not retaliation.

Application:

Goodness is not weakness but strength in God's Spirit.



CONCLUSION: LIVING OUT GOD'S MERCY

Romans 12 calls believers to:

- Surrender fully to God
- Live with humility and unity
- Use spiritual gifts faithfully
- Love sincerely
- Respond to persecution with grace
- Pursue peace and leave vengeance to God
- Overcome evil with good



OUR TAKEAWAY:

Our faith must be lived out daily in love.