

## Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome – Part 4 (Winter 54/55)

Romans 12:1–15:13

### Consecration and Transformation

12:1 Therefore I exhort you, brothers, through the mercies of God, to present your bodies *as* a living sacrifice, holy *and* pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable service.  
 2 And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may approve what *is* the good and well-pleasing and perfect will of God.

### Spiritual Gifts for Humble Service

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone who is among you not to think more highly of yourself than what one ought to think, but to think sensibly, as God has apportioned a measure of faith to each one.  
 4 For just as in one body we have many members, but all the members do not have the same function,  
 5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another,  
 6 but having different gifts according to the grace given to us: if *it is* prophecy, according to the proportion of *his* faith;  
 7 if *it is* service, by service; if *it is* one who teaches, by teaching;  
 8 if *it is* one who exhorts, by exhortation; one who gives, with sincerity; one who leads, with diligence; one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

### Devotion to Love and Goodness

9 Love must be without hypocrisy. Abhor what *is* evil; be attached to what *is* good,  
 10 being devoted to one another in brotherly love, esteeming one another *more highly* in honor,  
 11 not lagging in diligence, being enthusiastic in spirit, serving the Lord,  
 12 rejoicing in hope, enduring in affliction, being devoted to prayer,  
 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.  
 14 Bless those who persecute, bless and do not curse *them*.  
 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.  
 16 Think the same *thing* toward one another; do not think arrogantly, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own sight.

### Treatment of Irritations and Enemies

17 Pay back no one evil for evil. Take thought for *what is* good in the sight of all people.  
 18 If *it is* possible on your *part*, be at peace with all people.  
 19 Do not take revenge yourselves, dear friends, but give place to *God's* wrath, for it is written, "Vengeance *is* mine, I will repay," says the Lord. [[Deut 32:35](#)]  
 20 But "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him *something* to drink; for *by* doing this, you will heap up coals of fire upon his head." [[Prov 25:21–22](#)]  
 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### Submission to Governing Authorities

13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for *there* is no authority except by God, and those that exist are put in place by God.  
 2 So then, the one who resists authority resists the ordinance *which is* from God, and those who resist will receive condemnation on themselves.  
 3 For rulers are not a *cause of* terror for a good deed, but for bad *conduct*. So do you want not to be afraid of authority? Do what *is* good, and you will have praise from it,  
 4 for it is God's servant to you for what *is* good. But if you do what *is* bad, be afraid, because it does not bear the sword to no purpose. For it is God's servant, the one who avenges for punishment on the one who does *what is* bad.  
 5 Therefore *it is* necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.  
 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for *the authorities* are servants of God, busily engaged in this very *thing*.  
 7 Pay to everyone *what is* owed: *pay* taxes to whom taxes *are due*; *pay* customs duties to whom customs duties *are due*; *pay* respect to whom respect *is due*; *pay* honor to whom honor *is due*.

### Love Fulfills the Requirements of the Law

8 Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another, for the one who loves someone else has fulfilled the law.  
 9 For the *commandments*, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not commit murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet," [[Exod 20:13–15, 17](#)] and if *there is* any other commandment, are summed up in this statement: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [[Lev 19:18](#)]  
 10 Love does not commit evil against a neighbor. Therefore love *is the* fulfillment of the law.

**Live Carefully—The Day of the Lord is Near**

11 And *do* this *because you* know the time, that *it is* already the hour for you to wake up from sleep. For our salvation *is* nearer now than when we believed.

12 The night is far gone, and the day has drawn near. Therefore let us throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light.

13 Let us live decently, as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and do not make provision for the desires of the flesh.

**Do Not Judge a Weaker Brother or Sister—We Will All Give Account to God**

14:1 Now receive the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for quarrels about opinions.

2 One believes *he may* eat all *things*, but the one who is weak eats *only* vegetables.

3 The one who eats must not despise the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat must not judge the one who eats, because God has accepted him.

4 Who are you, who passes judgment on the domestic slave belonging to someone else? To his own master he stands or falls, and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person prefers *one* day over *another* day, and another person regards every day *alike*. Each one must be fully convinced in his own mind.

6 The one who is intent on the day is intent on *it* for the Lord, and the one who eats eats for the Lord, because he is thankful to God, and the one who does not eat does not eat for the Lord, and he is thankful to God.

7 For none of us lives for himself and none dies for himself.

8 For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore whether we live *or* whether we die, we are the Lord's.

9 For Christ died and became alive again for this *reason*, in order that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or also, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

11 For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me,  
and every tongue will praise God.” [[Isa 45:23](#)]

12 So each one of us will give an account concerning himself.

**Do Not Cause a Weaker Brother or Sister to Stumble—Live to Encourage and Edify Others**

13 Therefore, let us no longer pass judgment on one another, but rather decide this: not to place a cause for stumbling or a temptation before a brother.

14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing *is* unclean of itself, except to the one who considers something to be unclean; to that person *it is* unclean.

15 For if because of food, your brother is grieved, you are no longer living according to love. Do not destroy by your food that person for whom Christ died.

16 Therefore do not let your good be slandered.

17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For the one who serves Christ in this *way is* well-pleasing to God and approved by people.

19 So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what edifies one another.

20 Do not destroy the work of God on account of food. All *things are* clean, but *it is* wrong for the person who eats and stumbles in the process.

21 *It is* good not to eat meat or to drink wine or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is weakened.

22 The faith that you have, have with respect to yourself before God. Blessed *is* the one who does not pass judgment on himself by what he approves.

23 But the one who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not *do so* from faith, and everything that *is* not from faith is sin.

**Focus on Pleasing Others, Not Yourself**

15:1 But we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let each one of us please his neighbor for his good, for the purpose of edification.

3 For even Christ did not please himself, but just as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” [[Ps 69:9](#)]

4 For whatever was written beforehand was written for our instruction, in order that through patient endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope.

5 Now may the God of patient endurance and of encouragement grant you to be in agreement with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

6 so that with one mind you may glorify with one mouth the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**A Call for Jews and Gentiles to Accept Each Other—Scripture Confirms that Gentiles Participate in the Promised Blessing**

7 Therefore accept one another, just as Christ also has accepted you, to the glory of God.

8 For I say, Christ has become a servant of the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God, in order to confirm the promises to the fathers,

9 and that the Gentiles may glorify God for *his* mercy, just as it is written,

“Because of this, I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing praise to your name.” [[2 Sam 22:50](#); [Ps 18:49](#)]

10 And again it says,

“Rejoice, Gentiles, with his people.” [[Deut 32:43](#)]

11 And again,

“Praise the Lord, all the Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him.” [[Ps 117:1](#)]

12 And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even the one who rises to rule over the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles will put their hope.” [[Isa 11:10](#)]

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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