

Motivation to be Used by God - Rom 12:1-8

Romans 12:1-8 The Body of Christ & a list of possible ways to function in the body...start with vs 4
The Body of Christ has Unity, Diversity and Interdependence & a list of gifts is mentioned

- 4-8 For as in **one body** we have many members, and the members **do not all have the same function** 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually **members one of another.** 6 **Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:** if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;
 - Vs 7-8 prophecy...serving...teaching...exhorting...giving...leading...acts of mercy

The word "FOR" beginning in vs 4 is kind of like a THEREFORE - shows a motivation to be used by God as part of the body

3 Things it says about God

- 1) Rom 12:1(a) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by **the mercies of God**,
- 2) Rom 12:2 - that by testing you may discern what is **the will of God**
- 3) Rom 12:3 - the measure of **faith that God has assigned**.

the mercies of God - point back to Rom 1-11

THEREFORE - The terrible effect and consequence and universality of sin - all are under judgment - so all can receive mercy

- Justification by faith Rom 4
- Peace with God Rom 5
- Christ's death a demonstration of His love Rom 5
- Saved from God's wrath through Christ's life Rom 5
- United in death, burial and resurrection for newness of life baptism 6
- Sin no longer dominates Rom 6
- No condemnation in Christ Rom 8
- The Holy Spirit lives in us Rom 8
- Life and Peace in the spirit Rom 8
- Adopted as sons crying Abba Rom 8
- Promised Future resurrection and glory Rom 8
- All things work together for good Rom 8
- Nothing can separate us from his love Rom 8
- He shows mercy on whom He wills Rom 9 - and he did toward us tho we did not deserve it
- Faithful to Israel tho they rejected him Rom 11 - they can be grafted in again

Rom 12:1- I **appeal** to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual worship**.

- **Present your Bodies** → to offer, or *place at someone's disposal*, the idea of *offering something voluntarily and fully* Grasping the awesomeness of these mercies - moves us to do this
- **A living sacrifice** (ONGOING DEDICATION) holy [presenting is holy set apart] **acceptable** to God
 - Being a sacrifice will cost you -- and a sacrifice should be your best
- **Only logical response to the mercies of God- It is our spiritual worship, our reasonable service**

V2 the will of God

- 2 Do not be **conformed** to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing **you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and **acceptable** and perfect.
- In verse 1 he was after us to PRESENT OUR BODY, Here He is after DISCERNING GOD'S WILL
- Both ACCEPTABLE Will of God is good acceptable presenting my body as a sacrifice ACCEPTABLE

- Discerning the will of God in this context seems will not happen apart from PRESENTING OUR BODIES, and being Transformed as it describes here
- **HOW can we discern his will?**
 - **Not Conformed to the world** - happens outwardly → press into a mold - rather than will of God
 - **But Transformed - inner change** - Gk metamorphoō , “be transformed” → passive voice.
 - We do not actively transform ourselves...**we renew our mind**, and transformation takes place.
- Discerning the will of God comes along with the renewal of the mind
 - partly from **remembering the mercies** of God - how can we NOT respond to this
 - Partly from not being conformed to the world - how can we continue in a life that he has freed us
 - And partly by **thinking correctly about your God - given assignment - next**

V3 the measure of faith God has assigned to each

- 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to **think with sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them**:

Summary

There is the body of Christ - requiring functioning members

How do we get there? What is the source of motivation?

1. The mercies of God - we respond by **presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice**
2. The will of God - we respond by being **transformed by the renewing of the mind**
3. The measure of faith God has assigned to each - grace given to us...we respond by using it