

## Be Devoted To and Honor One Another Week of October 31, 2021

### Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *How have you grown in your study of God's Word this week?*

### Read Bible Study Summary:

Chapter 12 of Romans is considered by many to be second only to the Sermon on the Mount when it comes to instructions on how to live a Christian life. The first eleven chapters of Paul's letter to the church at Rome shares the **reality** of all that God has done for humanity, but specifically for those who enter into an everlasting relationship with him by faith (His Church). Chapter 12 is the turning point of the letter where Paul begins to issue commands for the believer's **response** in view of God's mercy. Today we will study Romans 12:1-10. In the first nine verses, we will realize two very important steps that we can take to position ourselves to be obedient to the two one another commands found in verse 10: (1) be devoted to one another, and (2) honor one another.

### Main Scripture

- **Read Romans 12:1-10**

How do we position ourselves for obedience to the commands to be devoted to and honor one another?

#### 1. Offer Yourself to God (Rom. 12:1-2)<sup>1</sup>

- **Give Your Body to God ("Living Sacrifice")** - When we view God's mercy and all that he has done for us, our hearts should gratefully yearn to be devoted to Him and to honor Him. But, what does Paul mean by living sacrifices? This is one of the many things that separated Christianity from the pagan religions of Biblical days. God was not asking for sacrifices of death, but of life. God wants His children very much alive and living Christ-like lives. Now you might say: "I'm out. How can I be holy and pleasing to God? My life's been anything but perfect!" However, it's not about what you've been, but what you can

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<sup>1</sup>This general outline is adapted from Tony Merida, *Romans*, Christ-Centered Exposition (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2021), 196-208.

become through Jesus. It's not about you being perfect, but about accepting what Jesus did on your behalf to present you holy and blameless before God. And, in response, God calls us to a life of worship in everyday life, in every realm of life, and in every aspect of who we are.

- **Give Your Mind to God (“Be Transformed by the renewing of your mind”)** - The world's philosophy is to be devoted to self, to honor self above all others. At least that's what we are told, but we must reject the world's patterns because we have been redeemed from a worldly mindset (Romans 1:18-32). Therefore, we must not let the world's message be the one that shapes our way of thinking. Instead, our minds must be renewed by the Spirit. Our minds need to be filled with the Truth of God's worldview so that we may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.
- **Read Romans 6:19-20**
  - *19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*
- **Read Philippians 4:8 -**
  - *8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*
- **Ask Questions<sup>2</sup>**
  - *Why do you think the mercies of God should cause us to offer ourselves as worship and serve one another?*
  - *What does it look like not to be “conformed to the pattern of this world” in your context?*
  - *What are some practical ways to renew your mind according to this scripture?*

## 2. Offer Yourself to the Church (Rom. 12:3-10)

- **Humble Yourself (v. 3) “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought”** - Spiritual pride can be one of the most devastating forms of pride. Have you ever noticed how prone we are to compare ourselves to other people to make ourselves feel better about our shortcomings? The truth is, none of us are too good and above being devoted to one another. We have no excuse for not honoring one another above ourselves. And if we're going to brag on anybody, it should be Jesus, for he deserves every bit of honor and glory we can bestow on Him. So, our boasting should be only in the Lord.
- **Realize the Uniqueness of Your Gifts (v. 4-5) “in Christ we who are many form one body”** - The Church is supposed to be a team working in concert with one another to accomplish its purpose, its mission and its vision. Satan loves for God's family to forget that we all have a different function and tries to defeat us from within with these tactics:
  - The person with vision thinks the person without vision is just blind.
  - The person with discernment thinks others just aren't that sharp.
  - The person with the gift of service thinks everyone else is just lazy.
  - The person with the gift of leadership is suspicious of others who have the gift of leadership.
  - The person who has the gift of evangelism thinks the person who has the gift of teaching doesn't care about the lost.
  - The person who has the gift of teaching thinks the evangelist is shallow.

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid, 208.

- **Exercise Your Gifts (v. 6-10)** - Overcoming Satan's deceitful schemes involves us working together as one body by exercising our gifts for the good of the body. Gifts are not given for one's own enjoyment or self-exaltation, and no Christian has no right to withhold his or gifts from the church. God designed his church to operate this way because he loves us and knows it is for our benefit that we use the gifts to build each other up.
- **Read John 13:12-17**
  - *12 Jesus asked, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*
- **Ask Questions**
  - *Why is humility such a critical component of being able to faithfully offer yourself to the church?*
  - *Have you ever been guilty of falling prey to the schemes of Satan by comparing your gifts to others and making judgments like the ones above?*
  - *What strikes you most about Paul's gift list? What do you find surprising, challenging, or encouraging?*
  - *In what ways can you more effectively use your gifts to serve the church?*

## Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.