

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.

“I beseech you” - N.I. V. & N.A.S. = “I urge you” – E.S.V. = “I appeal to you”

“your bodies a living sacrifice” --- Remember – [Romans 6:3-4](#)
Also see [Galatians 2:20](#), [1st Peter 1:15-16](#), [1st Peter 2:5](#) & [1st Peter 4:2-4](#)

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.

“Renewing of your mind” – [Colossians 3:10](#), [2nd Timothy 2:15](#), [2nd Corinthians 4:16](#), [1st Peter 1:13](#) & [Romans 8:6](#)

³ 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.

No place for personal gloating “not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” WHY “as God has dealt each one a measure of faith”

Soberly = #4993 “to put a moderate estimate upon oneself, think of oneself soberly”:
[Romans 12:3](#). **Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**.

N.A.S. = sound judgment

The phrase “**a measure of faith**” is somewhat obscure. “Measure” is from (*metron*), which can refer to “an instrument for measuring” or to a “portion measured off.” Some think that Paul had in mind the first definition, a standard. God has given us a standard of faith by which we are to measure ourselves. When we use that measuring device, if we are honest with ourselves, we will see how far short we come. Then pride will be vanquished. However, most believe that the second definition – a portion – ties in better with the context. God has allotted to each Christian a particular portion of His blessings. This would fit with verse 6: “We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.”

Then there is the word “faith” (*pistis*). This word has been prominent in the epistle, but it is apparently used somewhat differently here. “Faith” in this passage is not so much our personal response to the gospel (1:16,17; 10:17) as it is an expression of God’s grace. Since God’s gifts are utilized by faith, we might think of “faith” in verse 3 as referring to God’s supplying *whatever* we need (including the Word) to exercise our gifts. Similarly, when Peter gave a list of spiritual gifts, he said, “Whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving *by the strength which God supplies*” (1 Pet. 4:11; emphasis added).

We should not get bogged down with the meaning of the phrase “a measure of faith.” Whatever Paul meant by that, his point was that *God* allots this to us, so there is no place for personal pride. Perhaps no one has accomplished more for the kingdom than Paul himself did; but he said, “By the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Cor. 15:10).

Truth For Today Commentary – Romans 8-16 - A Doctrinal Study by David L. Roper pg. 251-252

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.

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;

Paul enumerates several functions performed by members of the body of Christ. So far as we know, most of these did not involve supernatural abilities. Whether supernatural gifts or natural abilities are under discussion, the principle is the same: we are to use those God-given abilities to the fullest degree.

Romans A Study by Johnny Stringer p. 71

Prophecy = Agabus ([Acts 11:28](#) & [Acts 21:10-11](#)) Philip's daughters ([Acts 21:8-9](#))

⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

Romans 12:7 (ESV) (N.K.J. ministry) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be **able to teach others also**.

⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁴ This means to urge one to pursue some course of conduct. Some have the ability to touch the heart of another so as to solicit a response. Teaching instructs in the principles of truth whereas exhorting persuades one to apply that to his life.

Romans "Salvation by the System of Faith" by Robert Harkrider p.154

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9 (ESV) Let love be **genuine**. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Love --- **1 John 5:3 (NKJV)** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. **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." **1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV)** Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, **Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Abhor what is evil --- See = [Psalm 97:10](#) Example --- [2nd Peter 2:6-8](#) Also [Ephesians 5:11](#)

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;

Romans 12:11 (NIV) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

rejoicing in hope - Remember Paul (**Romans 8:18**) --- patient in **tribulation** = properly, “a pressing, pressing together, pressure” (Strabo, p. 52; Galen); in Biblical and ecclesiastical writings, a Greek metaphor, “oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits” **Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. --- steadfastly in prayer = (**Ephesians 6:18**)

¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

1 Peter 4:9 (NKJV) *Be* hospitable to one another without grumbling.

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.

Romans 12:16 (ESV) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.

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.*”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Example of Paul = Acts 21:30 – Acts 22:23

Questions Romans 12

1. Explain both **WHY** and **HOW** one should make it his or her purpose to be a living sacrifice.

Questions Romans 12

2. Where does it state, *“not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think”* and what can we learn from this?
3. What word does the E.S.V. use for the word *“ministry”* and can you think of a biblical example for this?
4. How does Robert Harkrider distinguish between the words teach and exhort?
5. What is the Christian to abhor, and how does Lot exemplify this?
6. Where does it say, *“Let love be without hypocrisy”* and how would 1st John 5:3, John 13:34-35, 1st Peter 1:22 and Galatians 5:13 exemplify this phrase?
7. 1st Peter 4:9 can be identified with which verse in this chapter.
8. How is the Christian to respond to tribulation?
9. Which verse might you use to show that the Christian should manifest enthusiasm in his or her service to the Lord?
10. List the verse that teaches one not to be haughty or conceited?
11. What instruction is given to the Christian concerning the matter of how to handle evil?
12. What will you choose to remember from this chapter?