

The Epistle To The Romans (Chapter Twelve)

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To see the difference between conformation and transformation, understanding the process involved in being transformed
- 2) To appreciate the diversity of service in the Body of Christ

SUMMARY

Having concluded his discourses concerning the gospel (**chs. 1-8**) and God's dealings with the nation of Israel (**chs. 9-11**), Paul now exhorts his readers to full service in the kingdom of God. He begins with a plea to present their bodies as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, so that they can demonstrate in themselves that the will of God is good, acceptable, and perfect (**1-2**). He then encourages them to fulfill their proper place in the Body of Christ with proper humility and zeal (**3-8**). Finally, there are a list of commands which are to govern the Christian's life and attitude towards love, good and evil, brethren in the Lord, service to God, and response to persecution (**9-21**).

Main Points of Chapter

I. AN APPEAL TO BE CONSECRATED (1-2)

A. PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES (1)

1. In view of the mercies of God (**1a**)
2. Which is your reasonable (spiritual, NAS) service (**1b**)

B. BE TRANSFORMED, NOT CONFORMED TO THE WORLD (2)

1. By the renewing of your mind (**2a**)
2. To prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will God (**2b**)

II. SERVE GOD AS MEMBERS OF ONE BODY (3-8)

A. WITH HUMILITY (3)

1. In all seriousness (**3a**)
2. For what we are comes from God (**3b**)

B. WITH APPRECIATION FOR DIVERSITY (4-5)

1. Members do not have the same function (**4**)
2. But we are one, members of one another (**5**)

C. WITH ZEAL, NO MATTER WHAT OUR GIFTS (6-8)

III. LIVE AS CHRISTIANS (9-21)

A. AS CHRISTIANS (9-16)

1. Concerning love, good and evil (**9**)
2. Loving and honoring brethren (**10**)
3. Fervent in our service (**11**)
4. Rejoicing, patient, prayerful (**12**)
5. Caring for saints (**13**)
6. Blessing our enemies (**14**)
7. Sharing joys and sorrows (**15**)
8. Humble in our relations together (**16**)

B. RESPONDING TO EVIL (17-21)

1. Do not repay with evil, be mindful of what is good (17)
2. If possible, be at peace (18)
3. Give place to the wrath of God (19)
4. Overcome evil by responding with good (20-21)

KEY THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

the mercies of God - the many blessings alluded to in the first eleven chapters

a living sacrifice - an offering that is living, not dead

conform - "to fashion or shape one thing like another... this verb has more special reference to that which is transitory, changeable, unstable" (VINE) - this word is different than that found in **Ro 8:29**

transform - "to change into another form; [as used in **Ro 12:2**] to undergo a complete change, which under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct" (VINE)

overcome evil with good - the goal of the Christian's response to evil