

Romans 12:1-13 (New International Version)

1Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual^[a] act of worship. 2Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his^[b] faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

9Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

- a. [Romans 12:1](#) Or reasonable
- b. [Romans 12:6](#) Or in agreement with the

OASIS: The “One Another-ing” Capstone, Romans 12: 1-13

Possible Starter question: **In general, how has the experience of sharing your autobiographies with one another contributed to your life together?**

Transitional idea/comment: **Today’s passage not only helps “cap off” this special one another-ing series, but it also provides the on-going vision/challenge for our life together. The series may end BUT the opportunity to live it out continues!**

- Pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading (if you haven’t already prayed)
- Read text either aloud or silently (or both).

Overview question: **What is your sense for how these 3 paragraphs are connected? Have you sensed any progression or flow?**

First section—verses 1-2: *(Enjoy these verses as the springboard for what follows—but don’t get consumed by them, even though they are incredibly rich. Limit to 10-12 minutes.)*

- O (v. 1) What sort of “worship” is Paul urging? What kind of worship characteristics is Paul prioritizing?
 - I How might that compare to “standard Jewish worship practices”?
- O (v. 2) What is the contrast that Paul describes?
 - I What are some of the unhealthy ways that world shapes us?
 - A Any good ideas about how best to resist these influences?
 - I How does God seek to change us?
 - What does it mean to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”?
 - A What are some specific ways that you can assist that in happening?
- O What does Paul predict will be the results?

Second section—verses 3-5:

- O What insights does Paul provide about how we are to think of ourselves?
 - What mistakes do we need to avoid?
 - What insights do we need to recognize? (What’s the point of the analogy?)
 - I What makes v. 5 so radical or challenging?
 - A What are some the spiritually helpful ways that we can live out v. 5 in our Life Community?

Third section—verses 6-8: *(Now we come to one of the New Testament's 4 prominent lists of spiritual gifts. In this study we won't be analyzing and defining each particular gift. Sorry ☹. However, we want to consider the exercise of the gifts in the life of our group.)*

I How have some of these gifts been utilized for the benefit of our LC?

O What insight does Paul supply about how these gifts should be “given”?

Fourth section—verses 9-13: *(Our study concludes with a series of challenges.)*

I Which of these can be done “alone” or in isolation?
Which are best or only done in community?

A *(Invite people to indicate)* Which one of these would be a good one for you to grow in or put more into practice?

Pray for you LC to be a great place for one another to grow and give in these ways.

Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea: Your LIFE Community as a prime context for living out this series!
- b. Key verses: Romans 12: 9-13
- c. Today's text is didactic (teaching) or prescriptive. It is classic teaching material, and is as applicable today to us as it was to the Romans 2000 years ago.
- d. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- a. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- b. Always reword questions in language/word choice that is comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then drop it.)
- c. When you ask questions, how quickly do people answer or respond? How long do you wait? (Take your time; don't rush people but encourage people's participation; and avoid answering your own questions!)
- d. Pace the study—move on—conclude with “**difference making**” application.
- e. Timing--This passage is so rich that you might be tempted to take an hour on each section. Instead, allocate your time and move forward gently but steadily.
- f. Determine the core questions you will ask (and know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- g. Secondary or parallel texts—be very discreet and sparing in your usage of other texts, even though they may be relevant or complementary. That tends to push you more into the “teaching” role, rather than the role of guide or facilitator. It also can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- h. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of OASIS, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary (21st Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40.