

Transformed by Grace

Romans 12 :3-8

Scolioses : born w/inhibiting deformity that affects every part of life ; surgery/correct/straighten out =run/play

Main Point : Jesus radically saves and transforms us so that in our daily worship to God we can leverage all of our life to serve Him and others for His greater glory. Serving Him is our daily relationship with Him (joyful intimacy); Serving others is how we demonstrate our love for Him practically.

READ Romans 12 :1-8

“Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, [pleasing] acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship*[reasonable/rational act of worship]. ² And do not be conformed to this world [this age], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove [discover] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable [pleasing] and perfect [complete]. ³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴ For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body’s parts do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.⁶ However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them properly*: if prophecy, [in] proportion to *one’s* faith; ⁷ if [in] service, in the *act of serving*; or the one who teaches, in the *act of teaching*; ⁸ or the one who [in]exhorts, in the *work of [in]exhortation*; the one who gives, with [in]generosity; the one who [in]is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

*Paul has just finished worshipping the Lord at the end of three difficult & meaty chapters of telling us that God is a Sovereign electing God & that He saves us by His own grace and for His own pleasure (that is...that your very existence is for His glory & pleasure). (**Legos creation=proud of it/painting=display it**). **We exist as His proud display of love, affection, and redemption**. This blows Paul’s mind (overwhelmed with gratitude) =result=WORSHIP

Then Paul pivots to what is the spiritual reaction of those who “get it” (not the natural reaction, but spiritual) =those who have been redeemed for a purpose; those who understand their life is no longer their own:

=**WORSHIP** and **WORK** (=the purpose of the Church: For God’s glory, we Worship together, AND we WORK together =WHAT IS OUR WORK? It’s our daily ministry (**service**) Evangelism, discipleship, corp. worship, fellowship, & Ministry)

Vs. 1: “Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [your lives: body, mind, & soul] as a living and holy sacrifice, -your life is now His & your surrender your life -in totality – to the Lord so He can do with you whatever He wills. This is= [pleasing] acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship*[reasonable/rational act of worship]. =This is the appropriate way that we NOW live, behave, act, choose, and love (we are now CHANGED people; we are a bought people; we are a loved people; we are HIS!)

HOW? How do we a Believers accomplish this? Because we are *transformed* (death to life) & now filled w/**Spirit = He guides us, empowers us, He helps us, He prays for us, He’s in us!**

When Jesus transforms us from death to life, He intends to change every part of our life (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially), and we are called into a different way of life (*different than the rest of the world who lives apart from Christ [death to life]*). Our lives become focused on the *WORSHIP* of the everlasting God ...the God of all truth and all worth. The only One worthy of all worship and complete devotion of our life! **God gets it all** – ALL of us. That's the deal =(LORDSHIP)

Vs. 2: And do not be conformed to this world [this age], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove [discover] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable [pleasing] and perfect. What does it mean to be RENEWED in mind? (Jared)

1. We are to be renewed in our **mindset** (our **perspective**; *how* we think about everything now) = **God is sovereign**. He is first! It's about *His* glory above all. (**How** do we glorify Him? By loving Jesus & **obeying Jesus' commands** in Scripture (Jn. 14:14) in the power of the Holy Spirit: Our daily sanctification is to *make us* into the image of Jesus more and more everyday. = glorifying the Father.
2. We are to be renewed in our capacity for living for something **greater than ourselves**, a cause bigger than ourselves. We realize "It's not about us" – we are no longer the center of our own lives ("we are third"): We are on mission to advance the Kingdom of God all around us. (**Wife in labor, driving, =1 mission/not stopping at Dunkin Donuts**)
-We have a God who loves us; we have a relationship with our God through His Son Jesus; and we have NEW a reason to live, a purpose to follow, a meaningful responsibility in our worship of God = to spread His glory through our joyful witness of sharing the gospel and loving our neighbors really well (serving the least of these). This is why you are alive; and as often as you forget this/distracted by other things, = you are robbing God of His rightful glory and wasting your life on non-eternal things! (**like wasting time at work; playing video games/crossword puzzle instead of doing job = robbing from your employer who gave you your job**)
3. We are to be renewed in our capacity for **suffering** for **His sake and glory**. (In our genuine worship to God, we are called to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus – going wherever He leads us. Jesus is on a mission (**to seek and save the lost**) and He is leading us to be on mission to love others *as* (just like) we love God (=fully devoted to Him) & **we demonstrate that we love Him by loving others** [= **loving others is HARD**; people are hard to love. They are selfish and stubborn, hateful, and at times very unlovable. AND this is where we get to shine Christ's love in us and through us to love others well *AS* Jesus has loved us and "**gave Himself for us**" (Eph. 5:2) =This is how we are to show the love of Christ by loving others & sacrificing what we want, what we think is best, our rights, our desires, our comfort IN ORDER to serve others with a joyful attitude.
-**How?** We look to Jesus:(Heb. 12:2 "**for the joy set before Him He endured the cross, despising its shame...**") – just as Jesus did for us, so we are to focus on His glory & His sacrifice for us by **serving others selflessly** (sacrificially) to meet their needs (spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally) for God's greater glory and their eternal benefit.

How do we do that practically? I'm so glad you asked that! ☺ **Paul teaches us...**

1. We must have the right perspective of ourselves (spiritually) – you are last (I'm 3rd) (think about awarding ribbons/prizes = you are choosing to give yourself last place)

Vs. 3: For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Sp. persp./sound judgment = you exist to serve Him

2. We must remember we belong to another: A. Christ B. His Church/His Body

Your spiritual life; your walk with Christ is a Community project; biblical community.

-The best way to be reminded that you are NOT first, top priority **is to grow up in a big family**. Everyone has to chip in to make the whole thing go. Everyone has a part to play. Everyone is needed. Everyone is equally important. Everyone is depending on the other.

Vs. 4: For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are **one body in Christ**, and individually parts of one another. Paul uses the illustration of a Human Body: One unified body (functioning with a purpose) = every part of the body is important (lose eye? Lose big toe? Ear? Nose?) =every part is different. But all the parts work together in harmony =one purpose/thrive

3. We have been given a supernatural, spiritual gifting to be useful to God/church =Our spiritual gifting is a grace gift (charismata) = to edify/build up the Church:

⁶However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them properly*: if prophecy, in proportion to *one's* faith; ⁷ if ^[u]service, in the *act of serving*; or the one who teaches, in the *act of teaching*; ⁸ or the one who ^[u]exhorts, in the *work of* ^[u]exhortation; the one who gives, with ^[u]generosity; the one who ^[u]is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

-Part of our Worship and WORK is to build up/edify/improve the Church/Body:

A. None of us have all the spiritual gifts.

B. Each of us have at least one spiritual gift.

C. God's Spirit can anoint us with different gifts as needs arise.

D. We are called to be stewards of our spiritual gift. 1 Pt. 4:10 "*As each of us has received a special gift, use it in serving one another as good stewards of God's grace: =properly-orderly*

Vs. 6: if **prophecy**, in proportion to *one's* faith; If you are called to preach, trust God & preach

Vs. 7: if **service**, in the *act of serving*; called to help & jump in where you see an obvious need -the one who **teaches**, in the *act of teaching*; Kid's min., youth min., discipleship, sm. group

Vs. 8: the one who exhorts, in the *work of exhortation*; Encouragement, notes, hosp., hospitality

-the one who gives, with generosity; we are all called to give/some insight where/how/passion the one who is in leadership, with diligence; God raises up leaders. Servant ldrs, humble, depen

-the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." Loving the least of these; SEEING needs

APPLICATION:

-Do you know you belong fully to Christ ? If so, do you put yourself first over Christ often?

-Do you know you belong fully to Christ's Church? If so, are you faithful to attend, serve, give, and Leverage your life and spiritual gifts for the Church's blessing and edification?

-Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? WWW.spiritualgiftstest.com

-Are you currently serving in the Church using your spiritual gifts? Clif@thewellargyle.com

-What is your next step of obedience to the Lord? His Church? WORSHIP & WORK =together