

Conformed or Transformed?

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Scripture Basic: Romans 12:1-21

Focal: Romans 12:1-6a, 10, 13, 15-16, 19-21

Outline:

III. What God Expects of the Justified Man (12:1-15:13)

A. In His Direct Relationship to God as a Human Being (12:1-2)

1. The believer's availability to God (12:1)
2. The believer's manifestation of his new life in Christ (12:2)

B. As a Spiritually-gifted Member of the Body of Christ (12:3-8)

1. The general duty of humility (12:3-6a)
 - a. The principle introduced (12:3)
 - b. The reason for humility (12:4-6a)
 - (1) The analogy of the physical body (12:4)
 - (2) The corresponding truth in the spiritual Body of Christ (12:5-6a)
2. The specific duty of the optimum use of spiritual gifts (12:6b-8) (Brief definition of the gifts mentioned here):
 - a. Prophecy - Inspired oral proclamation of direct revelation from God
 - b. Ministry - Administration of alms, caring for bodily needs
 - c. Teaching - Explanation of the meaning of the revelation of God

- d. Exhortation - Exhorting to action, comforting and encouraging believers
- e. Giving - Sharing one's wealth with others (beyond the norm for believers in general)
- f. Ruling - Presiding or governing in the local church
- g. Showing mercy - Caring for the sick, the poor and the sorrowing

C. As a Member of Society (12:9-21)

- 1. His relationship to other Christians (12:9-13)
- 2. His relationship to pagan society (12:14-21)

Applications:

- 1. Romans 12:1-2 is a "nut-shell" description of the Christian life (cf. also II Corinthians 3:18):
 - a. Total commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - b. Constant saturation of the mind with scripture.
 - c. Constant obedience to the Word of God in daily affairs.
 - d. Confession of failures, recycle to a. again (I John 1:9).
- 2. Concerning spiritual gifts:
 - a. They are sovereignly bestowed by the Holy Spirit in grace (I Corinthians 12:11).
 - b. Every Christian has at least one gift.
 - c. We should seek to (1) recognize our gifts, (2) develop our gifts, and (3) utilize our gifts in an optimum way.
- 3. Note the practical handbook of a Christian's relationships to others.