

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Romans 12:3-21

The normal response after the surrender referenced in Romans 12:1-2 is respond to His work in you and serve. Service means we use our spiritual gifts given to us by God.

A. Christians are equipped differently and serve in different ways. Our focus is on the Kingdom and not ourselves. (vv. 3-5)

- Serve seeing that you are equipped by God, according to His will, and can only serve with Him leading you. This requires humility, surrender, and compassion that only comes from Him.
- Serve realizing you are part of the Body of Christ.

* We need each other to serve. We cannot be fully effective without all in the Body serving Him and serving one another.

B. Christians are to use the gifts given to them by God. (vv. 6-8)

- Spiritual gifts are given to Christians for serving in His Kingdom. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-31; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- We cannot be committed Christians and be inactive in service. We are to use our gifts.

Why do people not use their gifts? Fear of failure, focus in other things, laziness, lack of trust, pride, fear they are inadequate, etc.

- Gifts to be used and mentioned in Romans 12:

- * Prophecy - proclaiming His Truth; preaching His Word; God's spokesman to His people
- * Service - ministry; help provided in Jesus' name
- * Teaching - gives systematic and regular instruction in the Word; presents Truth understandably
- * Exhortation - encourager; warning; pleading; comforting; strengthening; motivator; calls others to obey the Truth
- * Giving - gives sacrificially; great joy in giving; seeks opportunities to give
- * Leading - standing before others; guides; ability to direct others and provide direction
- * Mercy - sympathy for others; comforts and strengthens others; special sensitivity; feelings put into action

—> The use of your gift is needed within the local church, where you have been placed.
Use your gift.

The normal response after the surrender referenced in Romans 12:1-2 is not only service through use of our spiritual gifts but also allowing Him to change us. Our lives should change and are to be a testimony to His work in us. We should strive for and reflect these characteristics mentioned in verses 9 through 21:

1. Love without hypocrisy. (v.9; 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Matt. 22:39; Gal. 5:22; John 13:35; 1 Pet. 4:8; 1 Thess. 3:12)

- Have real, genuine love flowing from you with an unselfish heart

2. Hate evil. (v.9; 1 Cor. 13:6; Ps. 97:10; Ps. 1:1; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 Tim. 6:10-11)

- Sin should be repulsive to the Christian

3. Cling to good. (v.9; Rom. 12:2; Phill. 4:8)

4. Love your Christian family. Be committed to one another. Remember the example of the early church. (v. 10; John 13:34-35)

5. Give preference to one another in honor. (v.10)

- Lay aside envy, jealousy, and pride. Encourage each other

6. Not lazy in zeal for Him. We are to be alive in our service. (v. 11; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 5:15-16)

7. Fervent in spirit. We should be passionate and enthusiastic. (v.11; Gal. 6:9)

- Have a continuing passion within you to see His Kingdom advance and to be a part of it

8. Serve the Lord. He is your priority. You desire to do His will. (v. 11; Rom. 1:1; Titus 1:1; Phill. 1:1)

9. Rejoice in hope. (v. 12; Rom. 8:24-25)

- Have confidence in your future and be joyful over what God has done for you

10. Persevere in tribulation. Look eternal. (v. 12; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)

11. Be constant and unwavering in prayer. (v. 12; 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18)

12. Contributing to the needs of the saints. (v.13; Acts 2:44-45; 1 Tim. 6:18)

- Give to help others within the Body of Christ. Remember you are a steward of all you have. See the needs around you and respond.

13. Practice hospitality. Be friendly to all. Be warm and generous. (v.13; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9)

14. Bless those who persecute you. Do not curse them. (v. 14; Luke 6:27-33)

- Follow the example of Jesus. (Luke 23:34)

15. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Be a person of mercy. (v. 15; 1 Cor. 12:26; Col. 3:12; Heb. 13:3)

16. Be humble. Do not show partiality. (v. 16; Rom. 15:5; James 2:1-4)

- See yourself as saved by God's grace and not better than anyone. Reach out to all people. Preserve and build unity.

17. Do not pay back evil for evil done to you. (v. 17; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Peter 3:8-9)

18. Respect what is right in the view of all. Be honorable and respected by your character. (v. 17)

19. If possible, be at peace with all. (v. 18; Heb. 12:14)

20. Do not be vengeful. Trust God for ultimate judgment. (v. 19; Deut. 32:35; Prov. 20:22, 24:29)

21. Respond to your enemies with kindness. Your actions may prick their conscience. (v. 20; Prov. 25:21-22)

22. Overcome evil with good. (v. 21)

—> Our lives are to be different and reflect Him in everyday life.

—> Examine yourself to see if you are growing in these areas.