

## Romans

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### Lesson 15: Romans 12:1–8

For eleven chapters Paul has been talking about the gospel. He has expounded on both the personal salvation of Gentile and Jews alike and the future national salvation of Israel. His conclusion is that this is all because of God's great mercy. At the end of chapter 11 he broke out in praise after thinking about God's mercy in saving Israel. The first eleven chapters have been described by theologians as Paul's delivery of doctrine. However, Paul can't stop with doctrine only. He now wants the Roman believers to know how they are to live in light of these great truths he has just taught them. The final five chapters are the Christian's duty in response to the great theological truth taught in the first eleven chapters. Let's dive in and see what it is that Paul says so that we might know what our duty is as those who have been saved by God's mercy.

➤ **Read Romans 12:1–2**

1. In verse 1, why does Paul start off with "Therefore"? (Hint: see previous verse.)
2. In verse 1, to what does Paul appeal "to urge you" to obedience?
3. Under the Old Covenant, God accepted the sacrifice of animals. In the New Covenant, according to verse 1, what is the only acceptable worship?
4. In verse 2, what does Paul tell you NOT to do?
5. In verse 2, what does Paul tell you to do?

6. According to verse 2, where does transformation take place for a Christian?

**Application:** Think of some of the modern ways people are told they can change spiritually? How does this compare with what verse 2 teaches?

**Application:** Name one way you are being tempted to be “conformed to this world.” How can you apply Romans 12:1–2 to that temptation?

➤ **Read Romans 12:3–8**

7. In verse 3, who did Paul receive “grace” from? What does this mean in reference to his authority?

8. How does “thinking” in verse 3 relate to verse 2? How does Paul tell us “to think”?

9. In verse 3, what has God “allotted” to each believer?

10. In verses 4–5, how does Paul describe the body of Christ?

**Application:** Paul makes it clear that believers are not to live in isolation. Why is this so important?

11. In verse 6, do all believers have the same gifts? Why?
12. In verse 6, Paul uses the Greek word *charisma* (gifts), which is from *charis* (grace). What does “grace” mean? Why is it correct to call spiritual gifts ‘grace gifts’?
13. What is the gift that Paul lists in verse 6? How important is this gift in the church? (see 1 Cor. 14:1–3)
14. What are the two gifts given in verse 7?
15. What are the four gifts listed in verse 8?
16. What are ways people show “mercy” in the church today?

**Application:** What is your spiritual gift(s)? How have you used your gift(s) for the edification of the church?

**Application:** What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.