



THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS "A Sense of Values" Romans 12:1-8

No. 295

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"Therefore, I urge you, brothers..." begins the final section of this great epistle. It introduces a heartfelt brotherly appeal to a practical application of the truth expounded and gets right into the heart of spiritual experience by urging the readers to evaluate their values in the light of all that has been explained so far.

I. The Reality of Your Commitment. vv. 1-2

A. The requests.

1. Offer your bodies.
 - a. "Offer" = sacrifice, offering.
 - b. "Bodies" = the whole person as expressed in physical environment.
 - c. "Living" = life is the sphere in which spirituality is expressed.
 - d. "Holy" = as opposed to body as instrument of sin.
 - e. "Acceptable" = like Abel; unlike Cain.
2. Do not conform.
 - a. "This world" = as opposed to the world to come.
 - b. "Conform" = don't be pressed into a mold.
3. Be transformed.
 - a. "Transformed" = metamorphosis.
 - b. "Renewed mind" = the means of transformation.

B. The reasons.

1. "The mercies of God" ...see previous 11 chapters!
2. "Therefore" ...see previous verse!
3. "Reasonable service" = spiritual worship.

C. The results.

1. The will of God discovered.
2. The plan of God proven.

II. The Estimation of Yourself. v. 3

A. Don't overestimate yourself.

B. Do properly evaluate yourself.

1. The gifts He has given.
2. The faith (power, ability) HE has measured out.

III. The Functions of Your Church. vv. 4-5

- A. The believers' place in the body.
- B. The diversity of ability in the body.
- C. The necessity for coordination and cooperation in the body.

IV. The Exercise of Your Gifts. vv. 6-8

- A. Gifts are according to grace that is given.
- B. Gifts differ according to the Spirit's intention.
- C. Gifts to be exercised need appropriate attitudes.
 1. Prophecy requires faith.
 2. Serving requires action.
 3. Teaching requires communicating.
 4. Encouraging requires getting alongside.
 5. Giving requires generosity.
 6. Leadership requires diligence.
 7. Mercy requires cheerfulness.