

# Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 12

God's Righteousness Revealed  
with your Neighbor

## Rom 12

### Christ Living in His Body

**Rom. 12.2b that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**

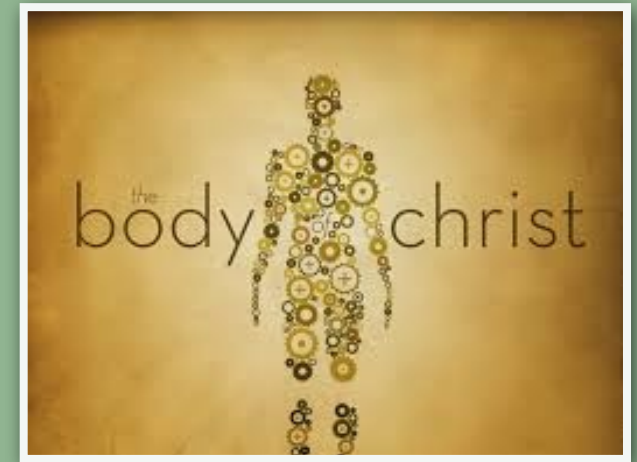
**1 - the Spirit has fused our many “bodies” into One New Body to express Christ**

**2 - half of our life is no longer about us individually but about the “new man’s” life, unity and testimony**

**3 - we’ve reckoned the impact of His death upon us**

**4- all believers have been given grace and faith**

**5 - whenever by grace a measure of faith is exercised, God’s Finger is manifest on earth**



# Romans 12: Grace is manifest through Christians

There are three arenas in Romans 12 where grace is to be exercised by faith as a testimony that Christ lives

1. Rom.12.1-8 Grace faithfully exercised in the Assembly
2. Rom. 12.9-13 Grace exercised daily at home and among saints
3. Rom.12.14-21 Grace lived out before those in the world



# Three stages upon which we live by grace through faith

## Progression of our Gracious Life of Christ

Stage 1. **Rom 12.1-8** in the assembly those whose grace has concretized into gifts exercise them by faith

- a. atmosphere is full of grace and most conducive to exercising faith in service
- b. members learn to serve in the gracious life of the Body
- c. there is encouragement to 'sacrifice' our life because we are alongside other gracious offerings of faith

Stage 2. **Rom 12.9-13** in daily life grace must be found within and made concrete as faith working through Love

- a. central theme: let love be fervent with real affection
- b. one must deny self to let the love of God be shed abroad from our hearts to others by the Spirit
- c. a life of loving grace must be lived beyond the meetings for oneness to be real in meetings

Stage 3. **Rom.12.14-21**

- a. grace is tested as exercised in an ungracious atmosphere
- b. grace is released after SELF has been hurt, challenged or wronged (the cross)
- c. central theme: let grace live above any controversy with the world, the flesh or the devil (it is by Christ not self we must show)

## Part One: **Romans 12.1-8** - Responding to God's Mercy with Grace's Offering in the church

**Rom 12.1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

**Romans 12** marks a turning point where four miracles take place

#1: **Incorporation** into one Body: the Spirit takes our many “bodies” offered and creates One New Organic Body of Christ out of them (“**by one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body**” **1Cor12.13**)

#2 **Transformation**: the Spirit begins transforming our formerly self centered minds as we find one “mind of Christ” directing and uniting us

#3 **Interdependence**: the Spirit humbles our independence as we learn that our ministry and service are corporately interconnected in One New Organic Body of Christ

#4. **Spiritual Gifts Discovered**: the Spirit of Life sovereignly distributes spiritual gifts in each consecrated member as Grace begins to serve by Faith

Part One: **Romans 12.6-8** - Grace Gifts in Body Life which are 'supernaturally natural'

**Rom. 12.6b-8** ... according to measure of faith

- if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith;
- if **service**, in his serving; or
- he who **teaches**, in his teaching; or
- he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation;
- he who **gives**, with liberality;
- he who **leads**, with diligence;
- he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.



## Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

**Rom. 12.9** ¶ Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.

**Rom. 12.10** Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.

**Romans 12.9-13** Paul now moves from our service in Body life to how we can keep an atmosphere of Grace as we live by faith among family, friends and brethren outside the church

1. Now the Christian is not in a meeting where there is an atmosphere and fellowship of love and worship
2. Too often outside church meetings we are not as careful to live and react to things in the Spirit but rather find our walk brings out our flesh and responses are not gracious
3. Paul wants to teach that the Christ-life must be lived out everyday
4. The overall sense of Paul's exhortations here are to encourage gracious expressions of humility and simplicity

## Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Living this Christ-life necessitates a renewed mind offered to God to be a grace-filled vessel “according to measure of faith”

1. Let love be without hypocrisy.
2. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
3. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;
4. give preference to one another in honor;
5. not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
6. rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
7. contributing to the needs of the saints,
8. practicing hospitality.

Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways  
Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

I. **Rom.12.9a Let love be without hypocrisy.** (lit. “without a mask”)

-Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. (MES)

-Let your love be perfectly sincere. (WEY)

-Let us have no imitation love (PHIL)

-Don't just pretend that you love others (LIV)

-Let the inner movement of your heart always be to love one another, and never play the role of an actor wearing a mask. (Passion)

-By grace love those you don't like (DC)

Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways  
Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

**Rom.12.9b Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.**

gram. “**abhor**ing” and “**cl**ing” are participles defining the power of love to affect our choices

-Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good.

MES

-Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. LIV

- Let us have a genuine break with evil and a real devotion to good PHIL

-Despise evil and embrace everything that is good and virtuous.(Passion)

Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways  
Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

**Rom.12.10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;**

- lit. “in philadelphia (brother love) having true family affection (philos storge) for one another

- As for brotherly love, be affectionate to one another WEY

- Be good friends who love deeply MES

- Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers PHIL

- Be devoted to tenderly loving your fellow believers as members of one family. PASSION

Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways  
Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different  
translations

**Rom.12.10b give preference to one another in honor;**

lit. “in honor others go before”

- practice playing second fiddle. MES

-Honor one another above yourselves NIV

-and a willingness to let the other man have the credit  
PHIL

- take delight in honoring one another LIV

- Try to outdo yourselves in respect and honor of  
one another. PASSION

## Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

### **Rom.12.11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;**

- lit. “in pursuing not timid , in spirit boiling, in the Lord slaving”

- gram. dative from our position in grace “in pursuing, in spirit, in the Lord”

-Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the  
Master MES

-Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work and let us keep the fires of  
the spirit burning, as we do our work for the Lord (PHIL)

- Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward him  
boiling

hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let him fill you with  
excitement as you serve him. PASSION

- Have His energy outwardly fueled by spirits aglow within (DC)

## Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

### **Rom.12.12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer;**

- gram. continuing in the dative of position in grace: “in hope...in tribulation...in prayer
  - cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder (MES)
  - be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always (LIV)
  - Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don't give up in a time of trouble, but commune with God at all times. PASSION
  - dig deep into grace's depths: find His joy, strength and persistence underlying life's hopes, troubles and needs (DC)

Part Two: **Rom. 12.9-13** Eight practical ways  
Grace is exercised daily at home and among saints

Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

**Rom.12.13 contributing to the needs of the saints**

- gram. still dative -lit. “in the needs of saints koinonia-ing”
  - Relieve the necessities of God’s people (WEY)
  - Help needy Christians (MES)
  - Take a constant interest in the needs of God’s beloved people and respond by helping them.  
PASSION
  - needy saints is His gift to us releasing His heart of ‘other-love’ with the liberating equality of koinonia (DC)

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
regarding Christ living His gracious Life  
through you to all men

1. grace must often be exercised in an ungracious atmosphere
2. central theme: let grace live above the provocations and controversy with the world, the flesh or the devil because it is Christ not self that bears the fruit of the Spirit within us
3. again there is a need for gracious simplicity and humility through our denying self from reacting and responding as is done in the world
4. grace is released after SELF has been hurt, challenged or wronged (the cross)

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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**Rom.12.14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

gram. double imperative 'blessing bless' emphasizes this powerful form of love

-Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. (MES)

-Invoke blessings on your persecutors—blessings, not curses.  
(WEY)

-And for those who try to make your life a misery, bless them.  
Don't curse, bless. (PHIL)

-Speak blessing, not cursing, over those who reject and  
persecute you. PASSION

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Looking at each simple exhortation in  
different translations

**Rom.12.15 Rejoice with those who rejoice,  
and weep with those who weep.**

-Laugh with your happy friends when they're  
happy; share tears when they're down  
(MES)

-Celebrate with those who celebrate, and  
weep with those who grieve. PASSION

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

**Rom.12.16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.**

- lit. “same mindedness not high mindedness; humbly going along together”)
- Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies -don't be the great somebody (MES)
- Live in harmony with each other. Don't become snobbish but take a real interest in ordinary people. Don't become set in your own opinion (PHIL)
- Live happily together in a spirit of harmony, and be as mindful of another's worth as you are your own. Don't live with a lofty mind-set, thinking you are too important to serve others, but be willing to do menial tasks and identify with those who are humble minded. Don't be smug or even think for a moment that you know it all. PASSION
- the mindedness of Christ is never haughty or exclusive (DC)

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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Looking at each simple exhortation in different  
translations

**Rom.12.17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what  
is right in the sight of all men.**

(lit. “care for good before all men”)

- giving back to no one evil for evil; providing right things before  
all men. Young’s Literal
- Don’t hit back; -discover beauty in everyone. (MES)
- Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way  
that everyone can see you are honorable. (LIV)
- Never hold a grudge or try to get even, but plan your life  
around the noblest way to benefit others. PASSION

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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through you to all men

Looking at each simple exhortation in different  
translations

**Rom.12.18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at  
peace with all men.**

-If you've got it in you, get along with everybody  
(MES)

-If it's possible – that is, from your side – WAGE  
PEACE WITH ALL MANKIND. (CP)

- Do your best to live as everybody's friend PASSION

-it is a contradiction of Christ's spirit to be difficult  
and contentious with those around you (DC)

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

**Rom.12.19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,”says the Lord.**

- Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." (MES)
- Never take vengeance into your own hands, my dear friends: stand back and let God punish if He will (PHIL)
- Beloved, don't be obsessed with taking revenge, but leave that to God's righteous justice. For the Scriptures say: "Vengeance is mine, and I will repay," says the Lord.  
PASSION
- taking this path by grace releases a practical display of conquering love (DC)

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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Looking at each simple exhortation in different translations

**Rom.12.20 “ BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM,  
AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO  
DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.”**

- Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. (MES)
- Feed your enemy if he is hungry. If he is thirsty give him something to drink, and he will feel ashamed of himself for what he has done to you (LIV)
- If your enemy is hungry, buy him lunch! Win him over with kindness. For your surprising generosity will awaken his conscience, and God will reward you with favor **PASSION**

Part Three: **Rom. 12.14-21** Practical exhortations  
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**Rom.12.21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

- Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good. (MES)
- Don't allow yourself to be overpowered by evil. Take the offensive - overpower evil with good. (PHIL)
- Don't let evil get the upper hand but conquer evil by doing good (LIV)
- Never let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good  
PASSION
- Love is always on the offensive (DC)

# Romans 12.14-21: Grace is manifest when Christians deny self and bear the cross

Christ who gave himself for us lives in you

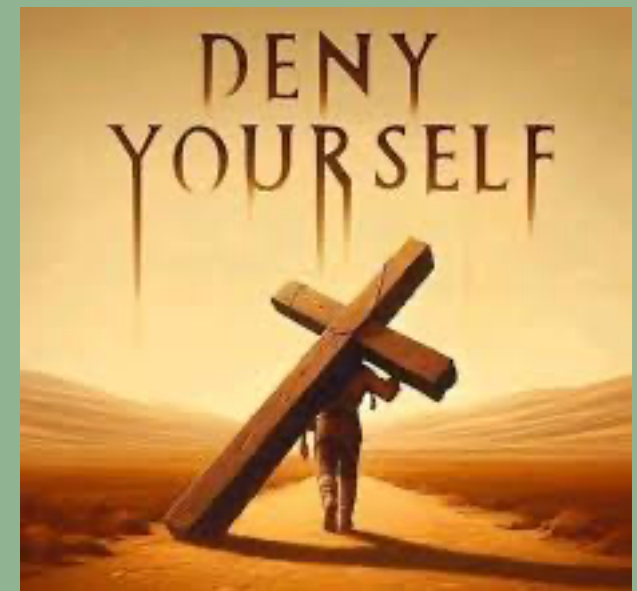
## 1. Death to Self, Not Death of Self:

"taking up the cross" is not about destroying the personality (death of self), but rather setting aside self-centeredness to allow the life of Jesus to live through us.

2. Grace takes Jesus' high ground in loving those who are difficult, lowly (rough) or antagonistic

3. Imperative verbs are used throughout this section because we must deliberately deny our 1st reactions

4. we often find ourselves spiritually stuck and the Lord's solution comes only when we help someone else



## Grace is activated as we take His cross

“The ambition to be somebody can hinder the grace filled Life of Christ within

The trouble with this, and here is the pastoral turn, is that everywhere we see Jesus asking us to “take the last place.” To be a servant. To be the littlest, least, and last. But that is impossible if our egos are being driven by a neurotic and shamed-based anxiety. Because the reality is that if you become like Jesus—if you carry his cross—nobody will pay attention, no one will say thank you, no one will recognize your work. That’s crucifixion. Of the ego, of the self, of our aspirations to be “a somebody.”

So that’s the rub. Jesus asks us to become a “nobody” in the eyes of the world. In our own eyes. But because of our death-infected neurosis—the shamed-based fear of being ordinary—we can’t accept Jesus’s offer. We don’t want to take up the cross. It’s too embarrassing. We don’t want to be a servant. No one will applaud or like us on Facebook.”

Richard Land

# Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 13
- Kingdom Living in this World