

# The Epistle to the Romans

## Romans 12:1-15:13

### OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS SECTION

To understand God's righteousness in everyday life. Since the gift of God's saving righteousness leads to a new life, Paul exhorts us to work out the practical implications of God's saving mercy.

### SUMMARY

**Romans 12:1–2, Paradigm for Exhortations: Total Dedication to God.** These verses summarize the response to God's grace and serve as the introduction for all of 12:1–15:13. They encapsulate what it means to live in a way that pleases God.

**Romans 12:3–13:14, Marks of the Christian Community.** The new life of believers is described in this section.

**Romans 14:1–15:13, A Call for Mutual Acceptance between the Strong and the Weak.** Paul addresses a specific dispute, probably over whether Christians need to abide by Jewish food laws. Paul clearly sides theologically with the "strong" (who did not feel compelled to follow those laws), but he encourages them not to despise or scandalize the "weak."

### OUTLINE

#### I. AN APPEAL TO CONSECRATION (12:1-2)

##### A. PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES (1)

1. In view of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (1a)
2. Which is your \_\_\_\_\_ (spiritual, NAS) service (1b)

##### B. BE TRANSFORMED, NOT CONFORMED TO THE WORLD (2)

1. By the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_ (2a)
2. To prove the \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ will God (2b)

#### II. SERVE GOD AS MEMBERS OF ONE BODY (12:3-8)

##### A. WITH HUMILITY (3)

1. In all \_\_\_\_\_ (3a)
2. For \_\_\_\_ we are comes from God (3b)

##### B. WITH APPRECIATION FOR DIVERSITY (4-5)

1. Members do not have the same \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
2. But we are \_\_\_\_, members of one another (5)

##### C. WITH ZEAL, NO MATTER WHAT OUR GIFTS (6-8)

### III. MISCELLANEOUS EXHORTATIONS (12:9-21)

#### A. AS CHRISTIANS (9-16)

1. Concerning \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (9)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ brethren (10)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ in our \_\_\_\_\_ (11)
4. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, prayerful (12)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ for saints (13)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ our enemies (14)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ joys and sorrows (15)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ in our relations together (16)

#### B. RESPONDING TO EVIL (17-21)

1. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ with evil, be \_\_\_\_\_ of what is good (17)
2. If \_\_\_\_\_, be at peace (18)
3. Give place to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (19)
4. Overcome \_\_\_\_\_ by responding with \_\_\_\_\_ (20-21)

### IV. RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE GOVERNMENT (13:1-7)

#### A. BE IN SUBJECTION (1-5)

1. For governing authorities are \_\_\_\_\_ by God (1-2)
2. For governing authorities are God's \_\_\_\_\_ to avenge evil (3-4)
3. To avoid wrath and maintain good \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

#### B. FULFILL WHAT IS DUE (6-7)

1. \_\_\_\_\_, customs (6-7a)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (respect), honor (7b)

### V. EXHORTATION TO LOVE AND MORAL PURITY (13:8-14)

#### A. THE VALUE OF LOVE (8-10)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ no one anything but love (8a)
2. For love does no harm, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Law (8b-10)

#### B. CONCERNING MORAL PURITY (11-14)

1. Time is short; we need to \_\_\_\_\_ works of darkness, \_\_\_\_\_ the armor of light (11-12)
2. Walk properly by \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, making no \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill fleshly

lusts (13-14)

**VI. ADMONITIONS TO STRONG AND WEAK BRETHREN (14:1-13)**

**A. HOW TO TREAT EACH OTHER (1-4)**

1. The strong are to \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_ the weak (1-3a)
2. The weak are not to \_\_\_\_\_ those God \_\_\_\_\_ (3b-4)

**B. HOW TO BE TRUE TO THE LORD IN THESE MATTERS (5-9)**

1. Be fully \_\_\_\_\_ in your own mind (5)
2. Do what you do as \_\_\_\_\_ (6-9)

**C. DO NOT JUDGE ONE ANOTHER (10-13)**

1. Christ is to be our \_\_\_\_\_ (10-13a)
2. Our concern should be not to put \_\_\_\_\_ in a brother's way (13b)

**VII. FURTHER ADMONITIONS TO STRONG BRETHREN (14:14-23)**

**A. DO NOT DESTROY A BROTHER FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED (14-18)**

1. Food is \_\_\_\_\_ in itself, but we can \_\_\_\_\_ it to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the weak (14-16)
2. The kingdom of God is \_\_\_\_\_ important than food and drink (17-18)

**B. PURSUE THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE (19-23)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your brother, don't destroy him over food (19-20)
2. Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of your brother (21)
3. Appreciate the importance of a \_\_\_\_\_ in your weak brother (22-23)

**VIII. CONCLUDING ADMONITIONS TO STRONG BRETHREN (15:1-13)**

**A. BEAR WITH THE SCRUPLES OF THE WEAK (1-6)**

1. Try to \_\_\_\_\_ your brethren, as Christ did (1-3)
2. With help from God and Scripture, be patient, so you may \_\_\_\_\_ glorify God (4-6)

**B. RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER (7-12)**

1. As Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us, to the glory of God (7)
2. As Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Jews and Gentiles, in fulfillment of prophecy (8-12)

**C. PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THEM (13)**

1. That God might \_\_\_\_\_ them with all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in believing (13a)
2. That they might \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ by the power of the Holy Spirit (13b)

## WORDS TO PONDER

**the mercies of God** - the many blessings alluded to in the first eleven chapters

**a living sacrifice** - an offering that is living, not dead

**conform** - "to fashion or shape one thing like another... this verb has more special reference to that which is transitory, changeable, unstable" (VINE) - this word is different than that found in **Ro 8:29**

**transform** - "to change into another form; [as used in **Ro 12:2**] to undergo a complete change, which under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct" (VINE)

**overcome evil with good** - the goal of the Christian's response to evil

**the governing authorities** - the political powers which govern society

**he does not bear the sword in vain** - an implied reference to the use of capital punishment

**put on the Lord Jesus Christ** - a process begun in baptism (**Ga 3:27**), continued as we develop Christ-like qualities (**Co 3:9-17**)

**make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts** - avoid situations where unlawful fleshly desires might be aroused and acted upon

**judge** - setting oneself up as accuser, judge, and sentencer; it does not mean we cannot make decisions about the right or wrong of another's action (cf. **Mt 7:1-6,15-20; Jn 7:24; 1 Co 5:9-13**)

**stumbling block** - that which causes another to fall; it does not need to be wrong within itself

**offended** - made to stumble; the word does not mean the way we commonly use it today, that is, to have one's feelings hurt or "offended"

**edification** - to build up; "used only figuratively in the NT...the promotion of spiritual growth" (VINE)

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE SECTION**

- 1. Upon what does Paul make his plea? (12:1)**
- 2. How is a Christian to present himself before God? (12:1)**
- 3. How is one transformed? (12:2)**
- 4. What is the purpose of such transformation? (12:2)**
- 5. What illustration shows our dependence upon each other in the church? (12:4-5)**
- 6. How are Christians to respond to evil? (12:19-21)**
- 7. What one word summarizes the Christian's responsibility to the government? (13:1)**
- 8. From where do governments get their authority? (13:1)**
- 9. What happens if we resist governing authorities? (13:2)**
- 10. What is a major responsibility of government? (13:4)**
- 11. What should serve as motivation for Christians' submission to the government? (13:5)**
- 12. What else is required of Christians in regards to government? (13:7)**
- 13. What one thing should we owe to others? (13:8)**
- 14. What are we to put on? What are we not to provide opportunities for? (13:12,14)**
- 15. How are strong and weak brethren to treat each other? (14:3)**
- 16. What is important according to verse 14:5?**
- 17. In all matters, whom is it we should try to please? (14:6-8)**
- 18. What is important according to verse 14:13?**
- 19. What elements are crucial to the kingdom of God? (14:17)**
- 20. How far should one be willing to go to avoid causing a brother to stumble? (14:21)**
- 21. If we violate our conscience, what are we guilty of? (14:23)**
- 22. Whose example are we to follow in bearing the weakness of others? (15:1-3)**
- 23. What value is the Old Testament to Christians? (15:4)**
- 24. Why is it important that we be of one mind? (15:5-6)**
- 25. To what degree are we to receive one another? (15:7)**