

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 6

No 27

## Our Body for His Body: Part 2

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-8

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1&2.

In our last study we saw that it is the renewing our mind by which the Holy Spirit inwardly transforms us into the image of the Lord. Today we look at the other side of that provision, our participation in His intervention in our lives.

**1. Paul's Appeal.** *I beseech you.* By beseech Paul begs them to come near, *by the mercies of God.* The word 'by' to us suggests a relational action, a standing beside, or being encouraged by; however it comes from the Greek preposition 'dia', meaning in this case 'through', or by the means of or the agency of God's compassionate favour when He offered His dear Son upon the cross. There is no other way to come to Him or His people. If we have not come by the way of the Cross we have not really come at all.

We are to come near through God's favour and present as a sacrifice our bodies to His service.

**2. Our Sacrificial Offering.** *To offer your bodies as living sacrifices.* This is a very positive aspect. The word for 'to offer' that Paul used meant 'to place beside, put at disposal; to present, make an offering'. In Luke 2:22 the same word is used to describe the presenting of the infant Jesus to the Lord in the Temple: . . . they brought Him up to Jerusalem to *present* Him to the Lord. It is a word used to describe the offerings by Israel's

priests. They, including that of infant Jesus, were a vicarious offering unto death, but all that is past; for us it is our bodies which are a living, holy, pleasing offering.

*It is a living sacrifice.* It is a death to self in the service of others.

*It is a holy sacrifice.* This indicates separation, a separation from the way of life that is unclean or sinful.

*It is a well-pleasing sacrifice.* It is satisfactory to God, acceptable to others and pleasing to our selves.

**3. Our Logical Service.** That is the word Paul used - *logikos* - *logikos*. In the New Testament it means rational. The stem of 'rational' is 'ratio'. A ratio is the way one thing stands in relation to another. Stairs, gears, interest rates, triangles are some examples. When one aspect changes in the relationship, so does the the other related aspect.

What has changed here is our standing before God, and thereby so also does our standing before the world. Once we have changed in relation to God, nothing can ever be the same again. We are new creation in Christ Jesus. Some Bibles render these words

'spiritual worship.' The word for 'service' or 'worship' comes from a Greek word properly meaning the kind of work as done for wages, whether it is paid work or not. It is also used of the serving of the Temple and therefore is rendered in some Bibles as worship. If we see all service as worship and all worship as service we ought to have no problem. But that is not what Paul intended. It is better read as 'service' because of its context.

**4. Serving Together.** Paul passes to serving together in the local Church. *The sentence, we do not all have the one function* v4, can also be rendered, 'we do not all hold the same office.' Perschbacher in his Lexicon defines 'function' as 'operation, business or office.' These offices are given by the Holy Spirit, sometimes miraculously, but often naturally. The Holy Spirit takes them and uses them in the ministry of the whole body.

Paul teaches us about knowing and using our gifts. Paul lists a few but there are more. It is good to know the gift God has given us and humbly exercise it v3.

Sound or sober judgment is from a word meaning 'to be in the right mind, to be sane'. If we are thinking that we are what we are not, we are

out of touch with reality and our decisions and actions will be disruptive, not helpful.

Seek the good of the whole v4. The team that wins has a strong team spirit as well as gifted players. We are members of a group v5. Ministry to the lost and ministry to other believers is a team effort. Be a team member, not a star.

Allow others to exercise their gifts too v6. Some will have gifts that others may not. They all need to contribute just as we do.

Concentrate on what we do best v6-8. Know our gift, know our task, do it well. It sounds old fashioned in this day, but it is important - know our place and excel in it. Everyone will then be blessed and we will be fulfilled and happy. When we forget these things, pride and envy destroy the unity and discord of the group. Some may be better suited or better equipped to the same task than another v6. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 1 Corinthians 14:32AV In humility one must defer to another as is appropriate and in order. No one has a monopoly of truth or faith.

Remember, Jesus is the head of the body. The head directs and coordinates the body. Let us enjoy exercising the gifts God has given us and rejoice in the ministry of others.

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB, unless otherwise acknowledged.

# Welcome

## Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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