
(v36) "From him and through him and to him are all things"

- Cf. Acts 17; Col 1



V. 12:1-15:13 The Transforming Power of the Gospel:
Christian Conduct

- A. We are great **sinner**s
 - But God is infinitely **holy** and **just**
- B. That we are under his **wrath and condemnation**
 - God, in his great mercy has sent his Son Jesus Christ, makes it possible for God to **justify** — to declare righteous
 - so that there is **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus

Romans 12

- A. 12:1-2 The Heart of the Matter: Total Transformation
- B. 12:3-8 Humility and Mutual Service
- C. 12:9-21 Love and Its Manifestations

Romans 12

- **Therefore:** explanatory conjunction (*oun*)
- two major parts = chapters 1-11 & 12-16
 - 1-11 = "instruction / theology"
 - 12-16 = proclaiming "exhortation / ethics"
 - *"Paul's theology is always ethical, and his ethics are always theological."* -NT Wright

How to Understand chapter 12?

- Read in light of 1:18-32
 - 1:18 The **wrath** of God is revealed from heaven
 - 1:18 **Unrighteous** people suppress the truth
 - 1:21 Did **not honor** God...became **futile in thinking...**and have **foolish hearts**
 - 1:25 **Worshiped** and served the creature rather than the Creator
 - 1:28 God gave them up to a **debased mind**
 - 1:32 They know **God's decree...**but **approve** of those who practice **evil**

Passage	Romans 1	Romans 12	Passage
1:18	For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven	never avenge yourself, but leave it to the wrath of God	12:19
1:21	but they became futile in their thinking	but be transformed by the renewal of your mind	12:2
1:24	to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves	For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.	12:4-5
1:25	worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator	present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship	12:1
1:30	inventors of evil	do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.	12:21
1:29	covetousness	if your enemy is hungry / thirsty feed them / give them drink	12:20

A. Living Sacrifice (v1)

- "appeal" = "strong urging!!!"
- **Worship**
 - Worship is how we live, a perpetual ongoing progressive action

"Don'ts"

- Do not be conformed to this world (2)
- Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think (3)
- Abhor what is evil (9)
- Do not be slothful (11)
- Do not curse those who persecute you (14)
- Do not be haughty (16)
- Do not be conceited (16)
- Repay no one evil for evil (18)
- Never avenge yourself (19)
- Do not be overcome by evil (21)

"Do's" (29)

- Present your bodies as a living sacrifice (1)
- Rejoice in Hope (12)
- Be transformed by the renewal of your mind (2)
- Be patient in tribulation (12)
- Think of yourself with sober judgment [not too highly] (3)
- Be constant in prayer (12)
- Prophecy (6)
- Contribute to the needs of the saints (13)
- Serve (7)
- Seek to show hospitality (13)
- Teach (7)
- Bless those who persecute you (14)
- Exhort (8)
- Rejoice with those who rejoice (15)
- Contribute/Be generous (8)
- Weep with those who weep (15)
- Lead with Zeal (8)
- Associate with the lowly (16)
- Do acts of mercy with cheerfulness (8)
- Do what is honorable in the sight of all (17)
- Hold Fast to what is good (9)
- Live peaceably with all (18)
- Love one another with brotherly affection (10)
- Leave vengeance to the wrath of God (19)
- Outdo one another in showing honor (10)
- Feed your enemy (20)
- Serve the Lord (11)
- Give your enemy something to drink (20)
- Overcome evil with good (21)

Do's & Don'ts of Romans 12

- this isn't a list of things to do to "become saved"
- The renewed mind is characterized by **humility**
 - The renewed mind is also characterized by **love**

C. Let Love be genuine (v9-10)

- John 13:35
- "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

D. How to respond to opposition, to enemies of the Church/
Gospel (v14-21)

- the OPPOSITE of how we would naturally respond to opposition
- like “heaping burning coals on his head” (20)
 - Prov 25:21-22

D. How to respond to opposition, to enemies of the Church/
Gospel (v14-21)

- When you treat your enemy as someone in need:
 - shaming him into repentance
- The mark of the truly Christian man is that of humility.
 - The Christian man does not have rights to priority or honor in himself, only duties to others.
 - Duties to worship Yahweh, and to love others

What's Paul's topic?

What does Paul mean?

Paul isn't interested in mere **behavior modification**.
He's not saying: "act better"...but that Christians are to experience an: **Internal "metamorphosis."**
And so *behavior modification happens ONLY by means of a renewed mind*

Just as futile thinking (chapter 1) will produce dishonorable and evil actions, a renewed mind (chapter 12) will allow for one to present proper, spiritual worship to Yahweh

What does this mean for us?
“Is Golden Hills a
Romans 12 Church?”



D. 13:1-7 The Christian and Secular Rulers

- E. 13:8-10 Love and the Law
- F. 13:11-14 Living in Light of the Day

Christians must submit to the authority of the civil government

- 1. It's right
 - Dan 4:17 *The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'*

Christians must submit to the authority of the civil government

- 2. It is wise
 - Hold people accountable
 - Threat of punishment keeps communities under control
 - The power to punish keeps social order

What is the sword?

- Biblical view of capital punishment
 - OT law = eye for eye (civil law)
 - NT law = (Matt 5:33-48)
 - "the sword" = the general power of the government: i.e., Military, police, general ruling with authority

Christians must submit to the authority of the civil government

- 3. It is fair
 - Governing is hard work

Therefore:

- Don't **rebel** against the authorities
- MLK
 - Acts 5:29 *But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."*
 - disobedience is always done with an attitude of **respect**



What do we do in the face of opposition?

- **Respect** those in authority
 - *"I hate communism, but I love communists"* - Wurmbrand
 - *"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing"* - Jesus
- Respect means we don't need to **worry/be anxious/fearful** of those who don't share our views

"Christians need to be wary of extreme ideological views on the role of government. On the one hand, it is hard to find biblical support for the very conservative view that government should do nothing but basic law enforcement. On the other hand, the Bible cannot support the very liberal/socialist view of the "government-as-savior." -Keller

(v8) Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law

- Christians overcome the evil of our society by **doing good** and by **living good**
- *"Overcome evil with good by bringing their (the Christians') love and faith to bear on the public good of the city in which they live. This is the setting for Paul's directions in Romans 13...we do not love the society in which we live by compromising on obeying God's standards; rather, we love it by obeying God's commands. The Christian never shuts himself off from society, nor conforms to it " - Keller*

G. 14:1-15:13 A Plea for Unity

- Christians were **passing judgment** on another
- (v2) One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.
- (v5) One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike
- What is Paul discussing: Keeping Torah (OT Laws)
 - Eat = Kosher
 - One Day = Sabbath

The weak person:

- Has lost focus on **the gospel**
- The weak are Christians who tend to promote and regard non-essential cultural and ceremonial customs as being critical for Christian maturity
- *"they have not worked out the implications of the gospel. If you are saved by grace alone, there is no need to feel you can or must somehow keep God's favor through rules and regulations." -Keller*

The strong person:

- Someone who knows they are **saved by the gospel**
- The strong must not **look down** on the weaker brother

Since all Christians are justified by faith

- it's important that we do not **condemn each other**:
- *"How dare we reject a person whom God has accepted? Indeed, the best way to determine what our attitude to other people should be is to determine what God's attitude to them is. This principle is better even than the golden rule [to treat others as we would treat ourselves]. It is safe to treat others as we would like them to treat us, but it is safer still to treat them as God does."* - Stott

Since all Christians are justified by faith

- To "judge" someone doesn't mean we can't evaluate others, but that we can't **condemn** other Christians
- *"The other person is not your servant. Let the Master, Jesus Christ, do the judging as to whether the other person is serving him properly. We are not qualified to judge"* - Keller

(v22) The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves

- Paul is saying "keep your **views** to yourself" on matters that are **disputable**
- *"If something isn't clearly forbidden or commanded in Scripture, don't press or loudly display your views and practices on the subject. Keep them to yourself."* -Keller

"Believers should accept one another in love even when they disagree over issues of conscience such as diet and the observance of holy days (14: 1- 8). They should follow their own consciences in this regard while taking care not to allow their behavior to disturb other believers who hold different convictions. What is more, they should make sure not to encourage other believers to do something that they do not believe is right. It is wrong to eat, drink, or do anything that disturbs another's conscience." -Moo



3. 15:1-6 Put Other People First

- 4. 15:7-13 Receive One Another
- VI. 15:14-16:27 The Letter Closing
- A. 15:14-33 Paul's Ministry and Travel Plans

Who is my neighbor?

- Luke 10:25-37

25And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." 28And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." 29But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back." 36Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

The purpose of unity

- *"the purpose of this unity is so the Christians in Rome might be able to join their hearts and voices in fervent worship of God. Disunity among Christians not only damages our own walk with God and our reputation with outsiders, it also damages our ability to give God the glory he deserves" - Keller*

Who is my neighbor?

- Therefore **welcome** one another as Christ has **welcomed** you, for the glory of God.

How Paul thinks we can love our neighbor (Keller)

- **Finances:** We are to look at our money as given to us by God to enrich and lift up those without it (v 25-28)
- **Church Leadership:** Ministry isn't about making the church happy and comfortable, but with the outsider/skeptic in mind
- **Relationships:** It's not about flocking to your own kind, or people who will merely build you up emotionally. We must be willing to love and relate to people who are draining.
- **Choice of residence:** Instead of comfortable living we should ask "where could I be most useful to God and others?"
- **Relationships in the church:** We are not to seek to win arguments with Christians who differ, but respect them, reconsider our own positions and, if differences persist, seek to accommodate ourselves to the sensitivities of others.

B. 16:1-16 Greetings

- Paul is recognizing a diverse church
- People groups
 - Gentile / Jewish Men
 - Gentile / Jewish Women
 - Slaves and Freed persons

Jewish Men	Gentile Men	Jewish Women	Gentile Women
Andronicus	Ampliatius	Mary	Julia
Apelles	Aquila (slave)	Rufus' mother	Junia
Herodion	Aristobulus	Tryphaena	Nereus' sister
Patrobas?	Asyncritus?	Tryphosa	Persis (freed slave)
Rufus (slave)	Epaenetus (slave/ freed)		Phoebe
	Hermas?		Prisca
	Hermes?		
	Narcissus (freed slave)		
	Nereus		
	Olympas		
	Philologus		
	Phlegon?		
	Stachys		
	Urbanus (slave)		

Phoebe

- *diakonos* = An official position in the church
- Ministering to the financial and material needs of the believers
- (Cf. 1 Tim 3:8-12; Phil 1:1)
- carried the letter
- patron / benefactor / helper

Holy Kiss

- standard form of greeting

Three facets of the early church (Moo):

- **It's social composition**
- **It's organization**
 - 3-5 house churches (vv 5, 10, 11, 14, 15)
- **The importance of women**

The importance of women

- 10 (more than 1/3) are women
- Phoebe [vv. 1–2]
- Priscilla [v. 3]
- Junias [v. 7]
- Tryphena, [v. 12]
- Tryphosa [v. 12]
- Persis [v. 12]

The importance of women

- Junia
- **ESV:** Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.
- **NASB:** Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles
- **NIV:** Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles

What is our modern view of women in the church?

- What roles should they hold?
- Do we under utilize women?
- As a woman, do you feel empowered to serve?

C. 16:17-27 Closing Remarks and Doxology

- Avoid divisions (like ch 14)
- How is the modern church divisive?

Paul's "ministry team"

- Timothy: Closest fellow worker
 - co-writer of 6 of Paul's letters (2 Cor, 1 & 2 Thes, Phil, Col, Philemon)
- Lucius (v 21): Lucius of Cyrene (Acts 13:1, or "Luke the evangelist")
- Jason: The same Jason who showed hospitality to Paul during his brief stay in Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-9)
- Sosipater: Sopater of Berea (Acts 20:4)
- Tertius (v22): the trained scribe who "wrote down" what Paul dictated
- Gaius (v23): Gaius of Corinth (1 Cor 1:14)
- Erastus: From Acts 19:21-22?

(v20) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

- **Genesis imagery** (3:14-15) 14 The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

How do we know that we understand the Gospel?

- *"For a person without a grasp of the gospel, differences of opinion and practice are huge and insurmountable. But if we grasp justification, that we are accepted in spite of our deficiencies and flaws, we will be enabled to accept others despite their deficiencies and flaws. In fact, the way you can tell how much you understand the gospel is to look at how much you love people despite their flaws. Do you say: if God overlooks my sins through Christ, how can I fail to do so with this person? Do I think I am more righteous than God?" -Keller*

Doxology

- 25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.