

Lesson 20
Exhortations to Christian Sacrifice and Service
(Romans 12:1-21)

• **Questions**

1. Upon what ground does Paul extend his exhortation to the brethren (12:1)?

2. What kind of sacrifice do Christians offer up to God (12:1)?

3. What relationship do Christians have with the world around them (12:2)?

4. What are Christians to do with their minds and why (12:2)?

5. How does Paul describe God's will (12:2)?

6. How are Christians to think and act with respect to the following circumstances (12:3-21)?

Thinking of self (12:3) –

Members of the body (12:4-5) –

Exercise of gifts (12:6-8) –

Love, good and evil (12:9) –

Other brethren (12:10) –

Work and service (12:11) –

Hope, tribulation, and prayer (12:12) –

Necessities and hospitality (12:13) –

Persecution (12:14) –

Joy and sympathy (12:15) –

Personal attitude and ambition (12:16) –

Vengeance (12:17-21) –

• **Digging Deeper**

1. What relation does Romans 12:1 have with what Paul has already written in chapters 1 through 11 (note the word “therefore” in 12:1)?
2. What does “reasonable” (“spiritual,” ASV) mean in verse 1?
3. What does “conformed” and “transformed” mean in verse 2?
4. The words “the grace that was given to me,” refer to what in Paul’s life (12:3)?
5. What does “office” (KJV) mean in verse 4?

6. Are the “gifts” (Gr. charismata) in verses 6 through 8, spiritual gifts, natural (talent) gifts, or both?

7. What does “conceits” mean (12:16, KJV)?

8. What Old Testament scripture is quoted in verse 19?

9. What does “heap coals of fire upon his head” mean (12:20)?

• **Applications for Today**

1. After being freed from sin and justified by faith in Jesus Christ (chapters 1-11), Christians are to daily sacrifice for God and serve him (12:1).

2. Christians are not to be like the world. They are to use their minds to live differently from the world around them (12:2).

3. God’s will is not appreciated by many but it is in fact good, acceptable, and perfect (12:2).

4. Christians must work together with their (non-miraculous, natural talented) gifts and remain unified (12:3-8,16).

5. True, sincere love will cause the Christian to act right in all daily situations (12:9-16).

6. Vengeance is easy and it feels good, but it has no place in the life of the Christian (12:17-21).