

Transformation by a Renovated Understanding (Romans 12:1-8)

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TRANSFORMATION BY A RENOVATED UNDERSTANDING (1-2)

Believers should present themselves as a living sacrifice to God (1)

I exhort you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a sacrifice that is living, holy, pleasing to God— which is your rational service.

Believers should not conform to the world, but are to be transformed by [Scripture] renovating their understanding [2a]

And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renovation of your understanding,

The purpose of a renovated understanding is so believers would experience life that pleases God (2b)

so that you may put to the proof what is the good and pleasing and perfect will of God.

IN OUR RIGHT MIND ABOUT THE USE OF OUR GIFT (3-8)

Believers ought not aspire to roles [in church] contrary to how God's gifting has equipped them (3)

I say then through the grace that has been given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to aspire beyond that to which one ought to aspire, but to aspire to what is sensible— each person as God has distributed to him an entrusted portion [faith's portion].

The body [of Christ] resembles [in one way] the [human] body, which is comprised of many members that have diverse functions (4)

For just as in one body we have many members, but all the members do not have the same function,

The members of the body of Christ are connected with each other in that body (5)

so we, who are many are one body in Christ, but members individually of one another.

Each believer has a spiritual gift [received from God] (6a)

Now since we have gifts differing according to the grace that has been given to us,

In the case of the gift of prophecy, it was not to contradict Scripture (6b)

if we have prophecy, let us do this in agreement with the faith;

The gift of prophecy was operational during the first century. Apostles and NT prophets wrote the NT Scriptures. Those gifts are not operational today.

In the case of the gift of service, it is to be used to serve [those in need] (7a)

if we have the gift of service, let us be engaged in service.

In the case of the gift of teaching, the teacher should teach (7b)

If we are a teacher, let us be engaged in teaching;

In the case of the gift of exhortation, the exhorter should exhort (8a)

if we are an exhorter, let us be engaged in exhortation.

In the case of the gift of giving, the giver should give generously (8b)

The giver should give with generosity;

In the case of the gift of leading, the leader should lead with diligence (8c)

the leader should lead with diligence;

In the case of the gift of showing mercy, the one showing mercy should do it graciously (8d)

the one who shows mercy should do so with graciousness.

CONCLUSION