

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Diversity of the Church”

Romans 12:1-8

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: Romans is seen as one of the greatest works of theology. In it, we have the foundations for the gospel, history, and Calvinism. Chapters 1-8 cover the theology of our salvation. Chapters 9-11 cover the history of our salvation. Chapters 12-16 talk about the application of our salvation. Our passage is the beginning of the application portion of this letter, in response to our salvation in Christ.

Summary: After one of the greatest expositions of the gospel in the first 11 chapters, Paul moves on to the application portion of his letter. In view of God’s mercy found in our salvation, we are to be living sacrifices, being transformed by the renewal of our minds. Part of that sacrificial living is found in serving the body through the diversity of our gifts.

Central Truth: “In view of God’s mercy in Christ, let us utilize our diverse gifts to glorify Him and build up His church.”

Sermon Points:

1. Our Service
2. Our Sacrifice
3. Our Source

Opening Question

1. How do you feel when you hear about the diversity of the church? How about when you hear about the service in the church?

(Answers may vary.)

After giving one of the greatest discourses about our salvation, Paul transitions to talking about what our salvation means. What does our salvation look like?

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He starts off by talking about our sacrificial, spiritual worship and service to the church.

Read Romans 12:1-8

2. What do the mercies of God mean for you?

(The mercies of God for Paul refers to the first eleven chapters. Chapters 1-8 talk about the theology of our salvation, while chapters 9-11 talk about the history of our salvation. Through these chapters, we've seen the doctrines of TULIP: total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints. We also see the beautiful doctrines of justification by faith alone, adoption, sanctification, and glorification on the Last Day.

These are the mercies that have been poured out upon us, and these are the mercies that we are to keep in view. This is the foundation for our obedience, living, and righteousness. Without God's mercies as our foundation, everything else is worthless.)

3. What does the call to be a living sacrifice mean for you?

(Paul is referring to the OT sacrificial worship system as he talks about living sacrifices here. The sacrifice needed to be the firstfruits and without blemish. They were burned up in totality. In the same way, we are called to be sacrifices. We offer the best of ourselves, and we give all of ourselves in totality. It's not just Sundays for a couple hours or a couple times a week. Our living sacrifice means that we are to worship God with everything, all the time.

But not only that, we are called to be living sacrifices, not dead sacrifices. We not dying for God's glory, but we are living for God's glory. Every part about us that makes us alive should be devoted to worship Him.

Lastly, Paul says that this is our spiritual worship. Spiritual worship means heart and soul. It includes our spirits, motives, and emotions. But this word can also mean reasonable worship. It's reasonable to worship God. It's reasonable to give ourselves to Him, because He first gave His Son for us.)

4. What gifts/opportunities do you have to serve the church?

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(Answers may vary.)

Final Thoughts: *Last week, we looked at the unity of the church, and today we see the diversity of the church. Christ has poured out His grace upon us with different gifts and abilities. And the Lord desires we use these gifts for His glory and the building up of His church. That is part of our being living sacrifices for the Lord, devoting all of ourselves to live for His glory. This is all found upon the mercies of God in Christ.*