

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



The New International Version translation is used for the questions.

1. Read Romans 12:1-21. In verse 1, what does Paul ask us to do? What do you think this means? What reason does Paul give us for doing this? Verse two says there are two practical things we must do in order to be a living sacrifice, what are they? How do you do these two things?
2. Pastor Rick said there are three ideas involved in applying this passage, what are they?
3. Read Romans 12:5-8. What do these verses instruct us to do as part of the body of Christ? What is a spiritual gift? Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is? How does a person discover their spiritual gift?
4. Read Romans 12:9-21. Make a list of everything this passage says we should do as Christians for each other so that we are a loving church. Then discuss what each one means and practical ways we can apply each one in our small group, our church, and in the world. What would happen if we did these things?

ANSWERS

- 1. Paul says that we should present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice in a way that is holy and acceptable to God. Paul says we should do this because: a. in view of everything God has done for us, gratitude, and b. that is what it means to worship God. Verse two tells us that the way we begin to put this into practice is to stop living selfish lives like everyone else does and to begin thinking biblically, begin seeing everything in our minds from God's point of view. We change our thinking by immersing ourselves in the word of God.*
- 2. The three ideas are: a. Dedication—Offer your lives as a holy sacrifice; b. Insulation—Do not conform to the behavior of the world and c. Transformation—Have changed lives by having changed thinking.*
- 3. It tells us that we should use the spiritual gift(s) that God has given us. A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability to serve other people for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. A person can begin to discover their spiritual gift by taking a gift evaluation class, like our 301 Membership class where you learn what the gifts are and how they work, but the certainty of your spiritual gift comes as you begin to serve other people. You will find that there is one way in particular that you find easier and more rewarding personally in serving others, that will be your spiritual gift.*
- 4. The list of things we are to do/not do in this passage are: 1. have sincere love for each other; 2. hate evil; 3. cling to what is good; 4. be devoted to one another; 5. be zealous with spiritual fervor; 6. be joyful in hope; 7. patient in affliction; 8. faithful in prayer; 9. share with those in need; 10. practice hospitality; 11. bless those who persecute you; 12. rejoice with those who rejoice; 13. mourn with those who mourn; 14. live in harmony; 15. don't be proud or conceited; 16. don't repay evil for evil; 17. live at peace with everybody; 18. don't take revenge, let God do it, it is his job. If we did these things as a church, the world would be beating the doors down to get into this place to see what we have.*

