

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



13. Living for Others (1)

Introduction

The people around us, those in our workplaces, schools or neighbourhoods, are not so interested in how much we know about Christianity, but whether we live it. In the first part of the book of Romans the Apostle Paul explains the meaning of the gospel, but in these last five chapters he shows the practical application of the gospel. If we have really come to know God's mercy and grace, then it will make a difference in our lives.

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-8

1. Offering our Bodies as Living Sacrifices v1-2

- ☉ What do you think it means in v1 when it says to 'offer your bodies as a living sacrifice'?
- ☉ Paul then speaks about our minds. Why are they so important?
- ☉ What are the 'patterns of this world'? What are some of those 'patterns' that influence Christians in the place where you live? Discuss.
- ☉ How can our minds be changed and renewed according to verse 2? Share what you have found helpful in your life.

2. We are part of the Body of Christ v3-8

- ☉ Paul has been speaking about our bodies, and now he uses the body as an illustration. What truths can we learn from this illustration of the body? v4-5
- ☉ Make a list of the gifts that Paul mentions in verses 6 to 8. Are there others you can add to that list.
- ☉ What do we need to do if we are going to find out what gifts God has given us? v3
- ☉ Often others recognise the gifts that God has given us. Can you identify gifts in the other members of your group? Share with one another, remembering to honour God, who is the giver of our gifts.
- ☉ What does verse 5 teach about our attitude to the gifts? Also see 1 Corinthians 12:7.

Conclusion

Let's offer our bodies to God once again, as a living sacrifice. When we do this we position ourselves to be used by God to fulfil his purpose for our lives as part of the Body of Christ. Then we will know God's will, which is 'good, pleasing and perfect'.