

**Focus passage: Romans 12:1-8**

**1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**3** For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

**4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

*What stands out to you from this passage?*

*What do you think 'living sacrifice' means? Read **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** for more on how we ought to live not for ourselves, but for another.*

*When you think of the word 'worship,' what comes to mind? Is it limited to certain times and places? Does it fit with Paul's idea that our being living sacrifices is our act of worship?*

*In verse 2 Paul compares a conforming and a transforming. What are these two options? How do we avoid one and embrace the other? What is a result of such transformation?*

*If we allow God to transform us from what we once were into something holy and pleasing to him, we're told we'll be better able to discern God's will. When have you struggled to understand God's will in your life or desired to know more fully what he wanted for you?*

*Living as God wants us to, not allowing ourselves to be stuck in the pattern or rut of this world, but instead renewing our mind and seeking his will leads to a character of life. How is this character described by Paul in the following verses (3-8)?*

*This whole passage is written in light of God's mercy (v. 1), so there is no room for pride, rather we should be humble, not valuing ourselves too highly while making sure to value the gifts of others. What gifts do you think God has given to you to share with his church?*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*

