

## **Introduction**

A few years ago, I was at a well control conference in Galveston, Texas. At the dinner function, I happened to be seated beside an instructor from another training company. I learned that he was passionate about golf. In fact, he considered himself to be the ultimate expert and authority about it. He knew about golf club construction and all the various factors like torque, stiffness, shaft kick point, weight, and length. Even though I had played professionally for twenty years at the highest level in the world, this man was clearly the expert on any and every topic about golf. A few months later this instructor was released by his company, and he sent me his resume, asking for a job. Upon receiving his email, it did not take me very long to decide on whether to pursue this instructor. When someone is arrogant and thinks more highly of themselves than he ought, other people will have a difficult time being around him. Other instructors, administrative personnel, and clients would all be uncomfortable being around this individual. Pride and arrogance are a major obstacle in working with other people.

Last week we began looking at our spiritual service of worship. Paul exhorted us to present our bodies as living and holy sacrifices to God. Our service begins with consecrating ourselves to God. Second, Paul told us that we were not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. I mentioned that I was putting in a fruit and nut orchard, a vineyard, and a garden, and that the land designated had a high clay content and was very hard. Therefore, I bought some peat moss (organic matter), and a tiller to condition or transform the soil. My soil was not usable, but now is usable. Our lives are not very usable when our minds are worldly, so they need to be renewed with God's word. Paul's third exhortation was for us to prove God's will in our lives. He gave us three characteristics of God to help us prove the will of God in our lives. God's will is going to be good, acceptable, and perfect. If something does not look, sound, smell, taste, or feel good, acceptable, and perfect, it is not God's will.

In the remaining part of our passage today, Paul continues his instructions about our spiritual service of worship. His first point is that we must serve with humility. We need to have a humble attitude. We cannot think more highly of ourselves than we should. A person with a renewed mind is going to have a humble attitude, and God looks for people with humble hearts.

Second, we must serve with the grace that God has uniquely given to each of us. All of our gifts are different. We are different members with different functions, but we are all one body. An arrogant person is not going to work well with the other members of the body; nobody wants to be around him. So, we must be humble, and we must exercise our gifts according to the grace given to us.

Paul's third point is that we must serve with love. This third point is like a crockpot of soup. Paul threw a little bit of everything into the soup. He speaks about love, abhorring evil, clinging to what is good, diligence, persevering, being devoted to prayer, contributing to others, practicing hospitality, blessing others, and allowing room for God's wrath and vengeance. Our service to God includes every area of our lives. In close examination, all of these areas relate to our love of God or our love of others. We are called to serve with love.

## **Our Spiritual Service of Worship – Part 2**

1. Serve with humility (Rom 12:3-5)
2. Serve with grace (Rom 12:6-8)
3. Serve with love (Rom 12:9-21)

(Rom 12:3-8) “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. {4} For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, {5} so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. {6} Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; {7} if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; {8} or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

(Rom 12:9-21) “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.* {10} *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;* {11} *not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* {12} *rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,* {13} *contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.* {14} *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* {15} *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.* {16} *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.* {17} *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.* {18} *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.* {19} *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.* {20} *"BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."* {21} *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*”

### 1. **Serve with humility** (Rom 12:3-5)

One of the first evidences of a renewed mind is a humble attitude. Paul says for us not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. In context, we are presenting our lives to God as a spiritual service of worship. We are exhorted to serve with humility.

(Rom 12:3) “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

What does God look for? In Isaiah 66:2, God says that He looks for a humble and contrite person. What does He require of us? In Micah 6:8, God tells us three things that are good and that He requires of us, and one of these is to walk humbly with Him. If we want our lives to be an act of worship to God, it begins with a humble and contrite spirit.

(Is 66:2b) “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

(Micah 6:8) “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Notice how Paul frames this exhortation to have a humble mind. He said, “through the grace given to me I say to everyone...” This is the apostle Paul speaking to them. This is the apostle to the Gentiles who has made the gospel known throughout Asia and parts of Europe. This is the apostle who was called to testify before kings and governors.

This is the apostle that God gave great revelations to, and wrote thirteen of the books of the New Testament, including this one to the churches in Rome. This is the same Paul that pleaded with God to take away the thorn in his flesh, but God said His grace was sufficient. Paul said the thorn was given so that he would not exalt himself. Paul knew first-hand about God’s grace, and about the importance of not exalting himself. Paul had a thorn in his flesh to remind him.

(2 Cor 12:7-9) “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! {8} Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. {9} And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

I want to take a minute to look at how Paul looked at himself. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address the divisions, immorality and chaos in the church. Some people were holding on to Paul, who planted the church. Some were holding on to Apollos, who built on Paul’s foundation. Others were holding on to Peter. There were quarrels and divisions in the church.

(1 Cor 1:10-12) “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. {11} For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. {12} Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ.”

In chapter three Paul asks, “are you not mere men?” People that are arrogant and think more highly of themselves than they should need to remember that they are mere men. Next, Paul tells them that he and Apollos are just servants to whom God gave opportunities to serve. Paul planted the church, and Apollos watered. Paul gives all the glory to God, saying that it was God that caused all the growth.

(1 Cor 3:4-6) “For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men? {5} What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. {6} I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.”

In chapter four Paul goes a step further about his own identity. He said that they were just servants and stewards of the mysteries of God. In 1 Corinthians 3:5 Paul said they were diakonos (Strong’s G1249), which is translated as servants. Diakonos means a waiter, attendant, or one that runs on errands. Although he introduced himself as an apostle at the beginning of the book, here he says that he is just a servant of God. In 1 Corinthians 4:1, Paul used the word, huperetes (Strong’s G5257), which means an under-oarsman. This was generally someone who was handed a death sentence for a crime, but had the choice of being chained to the oars on a ship. It was the lowest type of slave. Paul does not put himself down, which is false humility, but he wants them to know that he is just a servant doing God’s work. In the church, if we are going to offer ourselves as a spiritual service of worship, we must have a sober view of ourselves. We are just men, and we are just servants that God is giving an opportunity to serve.

(1 Cor 4:1) “Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

Paul said that we must not think more highly of ourselves so that we will have sound judgment. Pride and arrogance cloud our judgment. If we are going to prove God's will in our lives, we must have sound judgment. Then, Paul says that each of us has been allotted a measure of faith. This is going to tie in with verse four, where Paul says that the body has many members, and all of them do not have the same function. We have each been given a measure of faith to carry out the functions that God has called us to do. Paul had the grace to plant churches and bring correction to churches when necessary. God did not give that grace to everyone.

(Rom 12:3-4) “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. {4} For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, {5} so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Next, Paul writes that we are many, but one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. This really goes against arrogance, which makes someone think they are better than others. We are all members of the same body, and members of one another. We need one another, and an arrogant person believes that he does not need others.

(Rom 12:5) “so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Many people do not believe in church membership. As a young Christian, I did not value church membership. I was made to go through confirmation and join the church, but I wanted nothing to do with God or the church. When I became a Christian, I met lots of people who said they were church members, and they had never received Christ and were not following Him. So, from my experience and biblical ignorance, I did not have much use for membership. But, when I began to study membership, I came to realize that there is a universal body or church, and a local body or church. A local body has a local government and the members of that body are to obey and submit to their leaders. They don't submit to every pastor in the world, just the ones that are watching over their souls. And, in a practical sense, Christians are not relating to every member in the body of Christ, but they are connected to the members of the local body, and they serve one another in that body. The members of a body are connected to one another, and this is through a membership covenant.

## 2. **Serve with grace** (Rom 12:6-8)

A renewed mind and transformed life is going to be evidenced by serving with humility. Next, our spiritual service of worship serves God with the grace given to us. All of us have been given different gifts according to the grace given to us. Many people define grace as God's riches at Christ's expense, which is absolutely correct. They define grace (charis, Strong's G5485) as God's unmerited mercy, kindness, and favor upon us. There is another definition that we learned many years ago, and I believe it is also true. Grace is the ability and desire to carry out God's will in our lives. I believe that in our text today, each of us have been given the grace to carry out God's will in our lives, and the gifts that we are given line up with who God has created us to be and what He has called us to do. The grace given to Paul was far different than others. Not all of us have been called to witness to kings. All of us have been called to pray to them, but not everyone is called to testify before them.

(Rom 12:6-8) “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; {7} if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; {8} or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Paul said that we need to exercise our gifts accordingly, or according to the grace given to us. Paul mentions seven different gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, and mercy. This is not an exhaustive list of the different gifts in the body. Paul gives a couple of different lists in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. I believe this list is a sample list. Paul gives these seven to illustrate his point of how we are to exercise our gifts accordingly.

If you identify your gift in the list, you can follow the given exhortation. For me, I need to exercise my gift of teaching, and I need to be diligent in my leadership. The Greek word that is translated as diligence is *spoude* (Strong’s G4710), which means with haste, speed, eagerness, or earnestness. Leaders need to be passionate and enthusiastic about leading.

If you do not see your gift in this list, do not be discouraged or bothered; this is just a partial list. Look at the lists in 1 Corinthians 12. If you do not know what your spiritual gift is, I would encourage you to discover it. It is important for us to know our gifts and what God has called us to do. I would ask the Lord and the Holy Spirit to reveal it to you. I would speak with your pastor or small group leader. There are also many online spiritual gift tests that you can take to help you discover your gift. However, many of the spiritual gift assessments are made by people that may not even understand the gifts they are helping people to discover. I have seen lots of people say they are apostles based on an online test. The spiritual gift tests are good to take, but review them with your pastor before coming to a firm conclusion. We are all exhorted to exercise our gifts so if you do not know your gift, it will be hard to operate in it.

We also need to be equipped in our giftings; they do not just come fully matured when they are given to us. I have grown in my teaching gift. I remember the first Bible study that I taught, and I was so discouraged. I was mentored by Jim Elliff in word ministry and that really helped. I have worked hard at my teaching and my gift has matured.

### 3. **Serve with love** (Rom 12:9-21)

Paul’s third point is that we must serve with love. This is the perfect follow-up to serving with grace, using our gifts. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul tells us the priority of love over the gifts. We profit nothing without love, and we are noisy gongs without love. We must serve with love.

(1 Cor 13:1-3) “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. {2} If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. {3} And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

In the introduction I mentioned that this is like a crockpot of soup, because Paul threw a little bit of everything into it. He speaks about love, abhorring evil, clinging to what is good, diligence, persevering, being devoted to prayer, contributing to others, practicing hospitality, blessing others, and allowing room for God’s wrath and vengeance. A transformed life encompasses every area of our lives. Our service to God includes every area of our lives.

What kind of soup is this? Karen loves soup and makes all kinds of soup. I call her a “Souper woman,” because she likes soup so much. Her pasta fagioli soup is outstanding. But she makes many others, and they all have a particular identity, based on what is in them. I believe the one thing that all of the ingredients in this section have in common is love. This is a love soup. If we put all these ingredients into the crockpot of our lives, it will be a fragrant aroma to the Lord and a pleasing sacrifice.

Paul starts with, “Let love be without hypocrisy.” Then, he mentions being devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another. He mentions contributing to the needs of others, and practicing hospitality. All of the various areas relate to our love for God and/or our love for people. This is “Love Soup.”

(Rom 12:9-13) “*Let love be without hypocrisy... {10} Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor... {13} contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*”

Let’s take a quick run through this list of ingredients. Paul begins with love without hypocrisy. The thing that turned me off from Christianity as a young boy was hypocrisy. The thing that turns off people in the world is hypocrisy. Jesus had a lot to say about hypocrisy in Matthew 23; in fact, He gave eight woes to the religious leaders. They were living a different lifestyle than what they lived and what they taught others. Our love for God must be genuine and sincere. In 1 Timothy 1:5, Paul said the goal of his instruction was love from a pure and sincere heart. The love that comes out of these living and holy sacrifices must be without hypocrisy. Love without hypocrisy abhors what is evil and clings to what is good.

(Rom 12:9) “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*”

(Matt 23:13-15 {13} “*But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites... {14} Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses... {15} Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...*”

(1 Tim 1:5) “*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*”

Second, we must be devoted to one another in brotherly love and to give preference to one another in honor. There are different Greek words for love, and this one is philadelphia (Strong’s G5360), which means a love for your brother or sister. It is a family love. We are the family of God and we need to love and serve one another as we would a family member.

(Rom 12:10) “*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;*”

The early church was devoted to four things, and fellowship or koinonia was one of the four. The only way that this can happen is for us to be in relationship with one another. This means that we have to be involved in one another’s lives, either in one-on-one meetings, or in small group meetings. Connection Groups are vitally important for us to carry out all the one-another commands, that are all part of being devoted to one another. Being devoted to one another means that we care about one another. We care about the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of our brothers and sisters in Christ. There are many people that go to a large church service, but are

not connected relationally with others. For us to be devoted to one another, we must be connected, and we must be intentional.

(Acts 2:42) “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

We are also to give preference to one another in honor. Honoring one another is another form of love. Wives are told to honor their husbands, which is a way of loving them. In Philippians 2, Paul gave some instructions to the church about giving preference to one another. He told them to “do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Selfishness is one of the biggest problems in relationships, and the key to overcoming selfishness is a humble mind that regards others as more important. This works in marriages, families, businesses, and churches.

(Phil 2:1-4) “Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, {2} make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. {3} Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; {4} do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, He said to love the Lord with all our heart and the second was to love our neighbor as ourselves. All of these ingredients relate to either our love of God or our love of our neighbor.

(Matt 22:36-40) “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” {37} And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” {38} “This is the great and foremost commandment. {39} “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ {40} “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Next, we are not to lag behind in diligence, and we are to be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. The word for diligence is *spoude*, which means haste, speed, earnestness, or diligence. This goes along with being fervent in spirit. The word for fervent is *zeo*, which means to be boiling hot. When we offer our lives as living and holy sacrifices, we are to be excited and passionate about the Lord. We are to be on fire for the Lord.

(Rom 12:11-12) “not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; {12} rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,”

Notice that Paul mentions rejoicing in hope and being devoted to prayer. I believe that a church that is devoted to prayer, the word of God, fellowship, and breaking bread together will be fervent in spirit and full of joy. I also believe that a church that reaches out evangelistically to their community will be more fervent and joyful. Seeing people saved brings tremendous joy to the angels in heaven and the believers on earth. In Revelation, the church at Ephesus had lost their first love, and Jesus told them to do the deeds they did at first. When we first come to Christ, we have a hunger for the word, fellowship, and we tell everyone about Christ. Those same things help us to stay fervent for the Lord.

(Acts 2:42) “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

(Rev 2:4-5) “But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. {5} Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.”

The next two items are about our fellowship and love for people. We are to contribute to the needs of the saints and practice hospitality. In order to know the needs of the saints, we have to be in relationship and fellowship. Small group ministry is vitally important in the church. It is also a great way to practice hospitality. One comment about hospitality comes out of the meaning. The Greek word is *philoxenia*, which means a love of strangers. We often think of hospitality as having over our friends and family, but this word actually broadens that understanding to include strangers. Karen and I attended Liberty Church in Pensacola, Florida one year while I was there to play in the Pensacola Open. A naval officer introduced himself to us at the service and invited us to lunch at his house after the service. We were strangers and he was practicing hospitality.

(Rom 12:13) “contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”

The next few items are difficult situations. We are to bless those who persecute us, and we are not to curse them. When someone attacks me, my natural, earthy, worldly mindset wants to counterattack. That means that I have to renew my mind so that I respond by blessing, and not by cursing. A few years ago there was a lady named Lisa who walked by our office every day. She would stop outside our door and begin yelling out curses against us. Every time I heard her, I would begin speaking blessings on her. Eventually, she stopped coming by and cursing us.

(Rom 12:14) “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

Next, we are to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. God tells us to be of the same mind toward one another. It is easy to rejoice and weep with others when we have the same mind toward one another. If we are selfishly motivated and have selfish ambition in our hearts, we will have jealousy when others prosper and enjoy their suffering. We need to crucify our selfishness and be excited for others when they do well. One year I was playing a round with another PGA Tour player, and I congratulated him on a shot well played. He told me that I should not do that because I am competing against him. I responded by saying that I am playing to the best of my ability to shoot the lowest score possible, and am not playing him or anyone else. I am free to rejoice with others that perform well. I don't think that he could understand that in his worldly mindset.

(Rom 12:15-16) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. {16} Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”

God tells us not to be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. We are not to be wise in our own estimation. Haughty means high or lofty, so associating with the lowly is a good contrast and a good way to keep from being haughty. When I was in prison ministry, I treated the inmates with great respect. They were not used to being treated with honor and respect. They were used to people looking down on them. Haughty people look down on others, while humble people

treat others with respect. James tells us that when we treat a poor man with disrespect, we have violated the royal law, which is to love others as ourselves.

(James 2:6-8) “But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?... {8} If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.”

The next difficult situations are when people do evil to us. God tells us never to pay back evil for evil to anyone. In verse nineteen, he tells us to never take our own revenge, but to leave room for the wrath of God. Vengeance belongs to the Lord, and He promises to repay. Lately, there have been some things that have happened to me and my family, and I have been angry on the inside. I have asked God to help me with my attitude. I have reminded the Lord of this passage, and have turned the matters over to Him. The people that have wronged me think that they can get away with it, and I am asking God to deal with them for the wrongs they are committing.

(Rom 12:17-19) “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. {18} If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. {19} Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.”

God wants us to have a different response from the world. With a renewed mind, we are abhor evil and cling to what is good. We are to bless those who curse us. We are never to pay back evil, but leave vengeance up to God. We are to be at peace with all men, so far as it depends on us. I like that God included that phrase. There have been times where I have done everything that I can in a relationship, but the other person won't reconcile, so I leave the relationship with peace in my heart that I have done everything possible. That is a freeing clause which I appreciate. The tendency for all of us is to leave a relationship without trying to do everything possible to be at peace with them, and that is not right. God wants us to go the extra mile to be at peace with them. Notice that God tells us to feed our enemy if he is hungry and give him a drink if he is thirsty. God wants us to go the extra mile to be at peace with others. In these difficult relationships, we are not to be overcome by evil, but we are to overcome evil with good. This is only possible with a renewed mind and transformed life.

(Rom 12:20-21) “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” {21} Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

## **Conclusion and Applications**

We have been exhorted to present our lives as living and holy sacrifices, which is our spiritual service of worship. Our spiritual service of worship begins with presenting our lives. Second, we must prepare our minds and hearts. We cannot be conformed to the world, but we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We are to be living and holy sacrifices. Third, we must prove God's will in our lives. Our Christian walk is not going to a church service one day a week, it is a daily walk with Him in everything we do.

In our spiritual service of worship, we need to serve with humility. Our service is unto God and others, and for it to be acceptable, we must serve with humility. Second, we have all been given gifts according to the grace given to us, so we must serve according to the grace given to us. Third, we must serve with love.

**Prayer**

Father God, we offer our lives to You as living and holy sacrifices. Help us to renew our minds. Transform our lives so that we can prove Your will in our lives. Help us to serve You with humility of mind. Help us to serve You according to the grace given to us. Help us to know, grow, and operate in our gifts. Finally, help us to serve with love. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Q & A**

- Why is humility so critical in the use of our spiritual gifts?
- Do you know the spiritual gift that God has uniquely given to you?
- Are you actively using your spiritual gift to serve God and others?
- What have you done and are you doing to develop and mature your gifting?
- Who does God charge to equip the body for the work of service? (See Eph 4:11-13.)
- Why is love so critical to the use of our spiritual gifts? (See 1 Cor 13:1-3.)

**Introduction** (Rom 12:3-21)

1. **Serve with humility** (Rom 12:3-5, Is 66:2b, Micah 6:8, 2 Cor 12:7-9, 1 Cor 1:10-12, 3:4-6, 4:1,
  
2. **Serve with grace** (Rom 12:6-8)
  
3. **Serve with love** (Rom 12:9-21, Matt 23:13-15, 1 Tim 1:5, Acts 2:42, Phil 2:1-4, Matt 22:36-40, Rev 2:4-5, James 2:6-8)

**Conclusion and Applications**