

Romans 12 Instructions for Christian Living (21 verses)

1) Because of God's mercy, the Holy Spirit can transform your understanding.

v. 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.

2) The Body of Christ is our collective identity.

v. 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.

Notice: There are no clergy and laity distinctions.

3) An interesting and somewhat overlooked list of Spiritual Gifts.

v. 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.

- 1. Prophecy**
- 2. Serving**
- 3. Teaching**
- 4. Encouraging/Exhortation**
- 5. Giving**
- 6. Leading**
- 7. Mercy**

These are the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that are traditionally listed.

1 Cor 12:8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of **wisdom**, to another a message of **knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by that one Spirit, 10 to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another speaking in different kinds of **tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**.

- 1. Word of Wisdom**
- 2. Word of Knowledge**
- 3. Faith**

4. **Gifts of Healing**
5. **Miracles**
6. **Prophecy**
7. **Discerning of Spirits**
8. **Tongues**
9. **Interpretation of Tongues**

There are also ministries and spiritual gifts listed at the end of 1 Cor 12.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **28** And God has placed in the church first of all **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then **gifts of healing**, of **helping**, of **guidance**, and of different kinds of **tongues**. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all **interpret**?

1. **Apostles**
2. **Prophets**
3. **Teachers**
4. **Miracles**
5. **Gifts of Healing**
6. **Helping or Helps**
7. **Guidance or Leadership**
8. **Tongues**
9. **Interpretation of Tongues**

Ephesians 4 gives us the traditional “Five-fold Ministry Gifts” list.

Eph 4:11 So Christ himself gave the **apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers**, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until (*“Until” we all reach unity and become mature...*) **we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

1. **Apostles**
2. **Prophets**
3. **Evangelists**
4. **Pastors**
5. **Teachers**

Special Gift: “Finding Your Spiritual Gifts” by C. Peter Wagner

4) Life instructions for true Christians.

v. 9 **Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.** 10 **Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.** 11 **Never be lacking in zeal**, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 **Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.** 13 **Share with the Lord's people** who are in need. **Practice hospitality.** 14 **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.** 15 **Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.**

5) As far as it depends on you, live at peace.

v. 16 **Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud**, but be willing to associate with people of low position. **Do not be conceited.** 17 **Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.** 18 **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

Note: These definitely weren't Greek or Roman values.

6) Don't seek revenge, but rather defeat evil behavior with good.

v. 19 **Do not take revenge**, my dear friends, but **leave room for God's wrath**, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: **"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."** 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Proverbs 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. 22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

Romans 13 Guidance for Kingdom living. (14 verses)

1) All authority comes from God, so rebellion is rebellion toward Him.

v. 1 **Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities**, for there is no authority except that which God has established. **The authorities that exist have been established by God.** 2 Consequently, **whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted**, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

2) If you work for the government, you act as God's agent toward the people.

v. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For **the one in authority is God's servant** for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. **They are God's servants, agents of wrath** to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 **Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities**, not only because of possible punishment but

also as a matter of conscience. 6 **This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants**, who give their full time to governing.

3) Don't be in debt to anyone, except the debt to love them.

v. 7 **Give to everyone what you owe them**: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. 8 **Let no debt remain outstanding**, except the continuing debt to love one another, for **whoever loves others has fulfilled the law**.

4) Paul says the commandments are summed up in love.

v. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and **whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."** 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law**.

5) The return of Jesus is always coming closer.

v. 11 And do this, understanding the present time: **The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.** 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

6) We must continue to press into Jesus and strive to live honorably.

v. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, **clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ**, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Romans 14 We are living by the Spirit, not by the Law (23 verses)

1) We must avoid needless controversy.

v. 1 Accept the one whose faith is weak, **without quarreling over disputable matters**.

v. 1 Offer an open hand of fellowship to welcome every true believer, even though their faith may be weak and immature. And **refuse to engage in debates with them concerning nothing more than opinions**. TPT

2) Gentiles aren't required to follow Dietary Laws, but don't judge.

v. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and **the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does**, for God has accepted them. 4 **Who are you to judge someone else's servant?** To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

3) There is no requirement for Sabbath or Feast observance, but don't judge.

v. 5 **One person considers one day more sacred than another;** another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6a. **Whoever regards one day as special** does so to the Lord.

Col 2:16 Therefore **do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink**, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a **Sabbath day**. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; **the reality, however, is found in Christ**.

Mark 7:18 He replied to them, "So you too are without understanding? Don't you see that nothing going into a person from outside can make him unclean? 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and it passes out into the latrine." (**Thus he declared all foods ritually clean.**) CJB

4) Continued thoughts on Dietary Observance and judgement toward others.

v. 6b **Whoever eats** meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; **and whoever abstains** does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

5) By life or by death, our lives are all about Jesus.

v. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8 **If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord**. So, **whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord**. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? **For we will all stand before God's judgment seat**. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

6) Since we must each stand in judgment before God, that should be our focus.

v. 12 So then, **each of us will give an account of ourselves to God**. 13 **Therefore** let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

7) Paul affirms the Acts 15 guidance for Gentiles, with liberty for all.

v. 14 I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that **nothing is unclean in itself**. **But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean**. 15 If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. 16 **Therefore** do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.

8) The Kingdom must be lived in the Holy Spirit.

v. 17 For **the kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

9) Our top priority must be finding and maintaining our unity.

v. 19 Let us therefore **make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification**.

10) Our hearts should be clear and our attitudes should be kind towards others.

v. 20 **Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food**. All food is clean, **but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble**. 21 **It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall**. 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But **whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat**, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.