

**1 May 2022**

**Growing** ... in our relationship with Christ and committed to making the Gospel known – Romans 12:1-8

### **1. Present Yourself**

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**Question 1:** What holds us back from presenting our bodies to God in this way?

### **2. Be Transformed**

<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Question 2:** Think of an example of testing in the past. What did you learn? Did it develop strength of character? Were you able to apply lessons learned later in another situation?

**Question 3:** What testing circumstances do you face now? How do you plan to face them spiritually?

### **3. Build the Body**

#### **3.1 Attitude**

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**Question 4:** Why is attitude so important?

#### **3.2 Action**

<sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Prophecy** (v7) "...if prophecy, in proportion to our faith..."

**Serving** (v7) "...if service, in our serving..."

**Teaching** (v7) "...the one who teaches, in his teaching..."

**Encouragement** (v8) "...the one who exhorts, in his exhortation..."

**Generosity** (v8) "...the one who contributes, in generosity..."

**Leading** (v8) "...the one who leads, with zeal..."

**Showing mercy** (v8) "...the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness..."

**Question 5:** Looking at the list above, which one is a particular strength for you?

**Questions 6:** Which one do you find important but difficult to implement?

### **A Prayer**

Loving Lord, I present myself to you; my whole self in its entirety and as it is, a living sacrifice to you. Transform me by your Holy Spirit, renewing my mind through this time of testing. Build the body of Christ, your people. Release your gifts of prophecy, serving, teaching, encouragement, generosity, leading and mercy throughout your church family. May you live with new power in my heart, like the dawning of a new day. This I ask this in power of your Holy Spirit and for the sake of your Son my Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.