

# The Fruit of God's Mercy

Romans 12:1-8

## Introduction

### I God's Mercy Leads to Transformation

- A. Offer your body as a **living** sacrifice to God - Eph 2:3-6
  - 1. Holy and **pleasing** to God - Eph 5:8-10
  - 2. This is your spiritual act of **worship** - 1 Cor 6:19-20
- B. Don't **conform** to the world's pattern - Jam 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15-17
- C. Be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind - Col 3:10-11
  - 1. Enabling you to **test** what God's will is - Phil 1:9-10
  - 2. Enabling you to approve what God's will is - Eph 5:15-18
    - a. His will is good, **pleasing** and perfect

### II God's Mercy Leads to Humility

- A. Don't think of yourself too **highly** - Phil 2:3-4; 1 Pet 5:5-6
  - 1. Think of yourself with sober judgment - Gal 6:2-5
  - 2. Think of yourself in accordance with faith - 1 Cor 4:6-7
- B. Recognize the **corporate** body of Christ
  - 1. There is one body - Eph 4:4-6
  - 2. There are many members - 1 Cor 12:12-27
  - 3. There is corporate responsibility - Rom 12:4-5; Eph 4:15-16

### III God's Mercy Leads to Service

- A. We have been given different **gifts** - 1 Pet 4:10
  - 1. According to God's grace - Eph 4:7-8
- B. We have a responsibility to **exercise** these gifts
  - 1. **Prophecy** - 1 Cor 12:10, 28; Eph 4:11
  - 2. Service - 1 Tim 3:8-13
  - 3. **Teaching** - 1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11
  - 4. Encouraging - Heb 10:25
  - 5. **Contributing** to the needs of others - Rom 12:12-13
  - 6. Leadership - 1 Cor 12:28
  - 7. Showing **mercy** - James 2:12-13

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

1. What pressures do you face that challenge God's call to a life of surrender and sacrifice? In what ways is the world attempting to squeeze you into its mold?
2. According to Romans 12:1, what is the only reasonable response to the mercies of God? How would you describe the current state of your living sacrifice: 1) "I crawled off a long time ago" 2) "I crawl on and crawl off every day" 3) "Fully yielded and surrendered to God".
3. What does Romans 12:1 add to your understanding of what true worship is all about? Read Isaiah 29:13. What seems to be a temptation when it comes to worshipping God? How can you avoid this kind of superficial worship?
4. What have you found most helpful in renewing your mind? Are you currently practicing what helps you? What area(s) of your mind and heart need God's renewing touch today?
5. Do you view yourself too highly or too lowly? How are both extremes a reflection of pride and self-centeredness? How does either extreme hinder your usefulness in the Kingdom?
6. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, which ones are they? How are you using them to build up the body of Christ?
7. Ask God to give you a heart of gratitude for His great mercy expressed in the gift of salvation in Christ. Take a few moments now to worship Him by presenting yourself once again as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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