

Romans 12

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. ²Do 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. ³For 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. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] 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. ⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do 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,”¹ says the Lord. ²⁰On 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.”² ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

What does Christian Hospitality Look Like?
Discussion Questions

1. The Pastors talked about showing godly honor to our Christian family. What does the term honor mean in our culture? How can we restore a deeper sense of honor in a society characterized instead by a lack of genuine respect and reverence?
2. What does honoring others above ourselves mean in light of our possession and comfort and the needs of the world for our care?
3. Explore the tension between caring for the needs of strangers while also being faithful to our own giftings and callings in life (if caring for strangers is out of your comfort zone)?
4. What unmet needs have we noticed in the saints of our community and how can we contribute more directly toward meeting those needs?
5. In what ways can we, as a small group community, show kindness to strangers in our local community and neighborhood? Basically, what specific steps do we want to take beginning today to put this verse more into action in our personal lives and in the life of the church?

If you would like to discuss the subject of hospitality further with Pastor Jim or Pastor Michael, feel free to email them at jbirchfield@fpchouston.org or mhoman@fpchouston.org.

If you want to learn more on this topic, check out Marva J. Dawn’s book, *Truly the Community: Romans 12 and How to Be the Church*.