

Good advise for all of us!

Romans 12 :1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual *logikos ; rational ("logical")*: - *reasonable, of the word* act of worship. *latreia ministration of God, that is, worship: - (divine) service*

² Do not conform any longer 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.

Romans 12:3 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 measure of faith God has given you.

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

The functions of the members can be divided in two types:

- 1. Individual Gifts for you and I from the Holy Spirit*
- 2. Instructions for all of us*

⁵ So in Christ we who are many form **one body**, and each member belongs to all the others.

At Calvary Life Fellowship we are many and come from many tribes and nations. Some of us come from Europe. But even the Europeans are different one from the other and speak different languages. The Germans, English and Dutch may look alike but yet they are very different in language and culture.

Some in our fellowship are Asians and come from Korea, Singapore and Indonesia. All have different languages and different cultures. Even the Indonesians are different one from the other. We have some from Java, others from Sumatra, Kalimantan, Timor and other islands. All have their own culture and language.

Others in our Fellowship are from Africa and do look alike. Yet the Nigerians and Liberians come from different tribes and speak different languages and have different cultures.

Then we have the Australians! Again different from the Asians, the Africans and the Europeans.

God says we all form one body! One community, one fellowship. We are brothers and sisters. In Christ there is no black or white, no Caucasian or Asian, no male or female, no rich or poor, no Jew or Greek

Galatians 3: 26, You are all sons of God through faith **in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one **in Christ** Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

1. INDIVIDUAL GIFTS FROM GOD

If a man's gift is prophesying, *prophēteia* (“prophecy”); prediction (scriptural or other): - prophecy, prophesying. let him use it in proportion to his faith.

⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage;

if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously;

if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;

if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OF US

Romans 12: 9 Love must be sincere.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly 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 God's people who are in need.

This is an instruction for all of us, including your pastor. From time to time I receive calls for financial assistance and usually the procedure is for me to talk to the elders who make a decision. But this last week there

was an emergency need and there was no time to talk to the elders! One of our members had been searching for a place to stay for about 8 of our members. Money had been given by this member to share with those in need but there still was Rp. 800.000 lacking. So what to do? I talked to my wife and we decided to share as the Lord tells us to do. Some of you have no job so it is difficult to share money but you can share your love and time with those in need. One of our members shared an apartment with 8 others. Then some of these members get a job so now it is their turn to share. This is the Word of the Lord! 10% of our income belongs to the Lord so that amount we bring to the house of the Lord as commanded by God in Malachi 3:8;

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, `How do we rob you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:14, Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

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.

Romans 12:17, Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

What is right? It is right to be faithful – faithful to friends and Family. It is right to be faithful to our church community. It is right to come to the House of the Lord on Sunday morning.

Hebrews 10:25, Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

May God give all of us the grace, courage and willingness to obey the Word of the Lord.