

- A. Paul is making an appeal to us. He wants us to do something specific.
 - B. Paul is grounding his appeal to us in everything he has said so far in this letter, Romans. (note the word “therefore”)
 - C. We can respond to this command from Paul through the power of God’s many mercies to us in Christ.
 - D. The command is that we physically present our bodies to God.
 - E. Our bodies are to be a living sacrifice to God.
 - F. Our bodies will be holy to God and an acceptable sacrifice.
 - G. By presenting our bodies to God, we are offering an act of spiritual worship.
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1. We learn here that God does not just want us to worship him from a distance. He wants us to physically present ourselves as the body of Christ, or as individual members of the church, as living sacrifices to Him. We cannot worship God as He desires without being physically present in the fellowship of other believers.
 2. God does not want us to be conformed to this world. He wants us to be instead transformed as our mind becomes more and more like the mind of Christ through the renewing work of the Holy Spirit. Then, as we grow as Christians, we will be able to know through experience (by testing) the perfect will of God for our lives.
 3. By God’s grace, Paul clarifies what this living sacrifice will look like in your lives. Believers in Christ, members of the church, are to consider themselves with sober judgment. This means that we are not to be arrogant as we use our spiritual gifts and exercise whatever degree of faith that God has given us.
 4. In the body of Christ, the church, there are many different people or members of the body, and they do not all have the same gifts. So, we, the members of the church, are one body in Christ, and we belong individually as members to each other.
 5. We belong to one another and are known by everyone as those who have supernatural love for one another. We practice this love as living sacrifices, physically present in fellowship with one another as we build each other up by using our spiritual gifts given to us by God.
 6. We each have gifts that differ according to the measure of faith, or the differing grace given to us. Paul here lists some of the most prominent gifts in the church for us. This is not an exhaustive list, but most people will have at least one of these gifts along with other gifts.

Application

1. Remember to seek first Christ's Kingdom and righteousness by being active members of the body of Christ.
2. Make it a priority to use your spiritual gifts to love one another with a supernatural, Holy Spirit-enabled, physically present, living sacrifice love that can only happen when we come together as church members.
3. Prepare for next week's sermon by reading through Romans 12:9-21 every day this week, considering how to apply this passage with love.