**August 22, 2021**

**“Life Together in Jesus”** going deeper in Romans 12:1-8

**INTRODUCTION**

In the chapters prior to this the Apostle Paul has been explaining how amazing God’s grace (mercy) is. This leads into the question of how will you and I respond to God’s grace.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* NIV **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 act of worship. 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. 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, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is 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. 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.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think it means to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice? Offering yourself to God is to be a response to God’s mercy (grace). Why is God’s mercy or grace so important?

2. Why would this be holy and pleasing to God?

3. The word for “worship” in verse 1 also means “service.” What connections do you see between serving and worship? Why might just sitting through worship actually not be worship?

4. The phrase “spiritual act of worship” literally is “reasoned or informed service or worship.” What are ways in corporate worship in most churches that engage the heart and the mind?

5. In what areas do you think Christians are conforming to the world? What are the areas that conforming to the world are a struggle for you? If you are in a small group talk about ways that you can help each other with this?

6. In verse 3 the Apostle Paul talks about not seeing yourself more highly than you ought or living with humility. Why would this be important before talking about being members of one body and serving one another?

7. Where have you served in the body of Christ? Where is God calling you to serve now? What are you passionate about?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Tell the Lord why you are thankful for His amazing grace.

\*Thank the Lord for the other followers of Jesus that have encouraged and challenged you. Ask the Lord to bless each of them.

\*Ask the Lord to give you opportunities today to show and tell others about His grace.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The grace of God should be the motivation to live out the Christian life with others. What part will you play in the body of Christ today and in this coming year?