

The Letter to the Romans
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Presentation 6

Welcome

- Questions for today
- Romans 12:1-15:6
- Parts (i) and (ii): the centrality of love
- Part (iii): love in practice
- Synthesis
- Prayer

Questions for today

- The theological issues of the Reformation
- The practical issues of the Reformation
- Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1999)
- Today: the place of Scripture
- Today: ethical issues
- Today: church order
- Today: how to discern future evolutions and keep communion

Vocabulary

MUTUALITY: self, one another, neighbour, “brothers and sisters”

STYLE: Imperatives, closing in a prayer in 15:6

Frames

Romans 12:1 Therefore I exhort (*parakalō*) you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of **God**, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to **God**—which is your *reasonable (logikēn) service*. **2** Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your *mind (nous)*, so that you may test and approve

what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Romans 15:5 Now may the **God** of endurance and **comfort** (*paraklēseōs*) give you *unity (to auto phronein)* with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, **6** so that together you may with one voice *glorify* the **God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rivets

Romans 11:25, 30-31, 36 and 12:1-5

Romans 15:5-6 and 7-9

Thesis: Romans 1:16-17

[Chart of the whole letter]

Overall Outline

- i. Christian life as “reasonable worship” (12:1-2)
- ii. What does Christian living require? (12:3-13:14)
- iii. Living “inclusively” and in tolerance of each other (14:1-15:6)

12:1-2 Introduction (exordium; i)
 12:3 Thesis (propositio)
 12:4-15:4 Proofs (probationes; ii and iii)
 15:5-6 Conclusion (peroratio)

Rom 12:3

Parts (i) and (ii)

- i. Christian life as “reasonable worship” (12:1-2)
- ii. What does Christian living require? (12:3-13:14)
 - a) Your own gifts (12:3-8)
 - b) Gift of love within the community (12:9-16)
 - c) Love in action outside the community (12:17-21)
 - d) How should we treat civil authorities? (13:1-7)

- e) Being indebted in love (13:8-10)
- f) "Knowing the time" (13:11-14)

Introduction

Rom 12:1

A. Therefore I exhort you (*plural throughout*), brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice

B. —alive, holy, and pleasing (*euareston*) to God—

A* which is your reasonable (*logikēn* = reasonable, spiritual, appropriate, rational) service (*worship*).

Rom 12:2

A. Do not be conformed to this present world (lit. age), but be transformed (*metamorphousthe*) by the renewing (*anakainōsei*) of your mind (*nous*),

B. so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing (*euareston*) and perfect.

Centrality of love

Rom 12:3-6

- (1) If the gift is **prophecy**, that individual must use it in proportion to his faith.
- (2) 7 If it is **service**, he must serve;
- (3) if it is **teaching**, he must teach;
- (4) 8 if it is **exhortation**, he must exhort;
- (5) if it is **contributing**, he must do so with sincerity;
- (6) if it is **leadership**, he must do so with diligence;
- (7) if it is showing **mercy**, he must do so with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:9-16

Background

Prov 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, 22 for you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

Coals: an image of the shame felt, leading to repentance.

Coals: if the love offered is further rejected, then God will punish even more severely.

Coals: a humorous reference to killing with kindness (risking a concealed revenge!)

Rom 13:1-6

Background

Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, [Claudius] expelled them from Rome. Suetonius, Lives of the Twelve Caesars (Claudius 25.4)

There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome. (Acts 18:2)

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. (Tacitus, Annals 15.44)

Romans 13:8-10

Background: Luke 10:26-28; Luke 6:27-28; Gal 5:14; Leve 19:8

Rom 13:11-14

Part (iii)

iii. Living "inclusively" and in tolerance of each other (14:1-15:6)

- a) Tolerance is the call of everyone (14:1-12)
- b) Especially the strong should be tolerant of the weak (14:13-23)
- c) The example of Jesus, who was himself so tolerant (15:1-6)

Love in practice**Rom 14:1-4**

1. avoiding meat sacrificed to idols
2. abstaining from wine
3. observing Jewish holy days

Romans 14:5-9
Romans 14:10-12

Romans 14:13-18
Romans 14:19-23

Romans 15:1-6

Synthesis

Romans 12:1-2; 13:10; 14:7; 15:7

Romans 1-8	Romans 9-11	Romans 12-15
No distinction (twice!)	Intricate relationship	Welcome one another
Inclusion of the Gentiles	Inclusion of Israel	Exhortation: Live inclusively!

12:1-2 Introduction (exordium)
 12:3 Thesis (propositio)
 12:4-15:4 Proofs (probationes)
 15:5-6 Conclusion (peroratio)

7: Receive (14:1, 3), one another then (1:12, 27; 2:15; 12:5, 10, 16; 13:8; 14:13, 19; 15:5) just as Christ also received you, to God's glory. (1:23; 2:7, 10; 3:7, 23; 4:20; 5:2; 6:4; 8:18, 21; 9:4, 23; 11:36).

8: For I tell you that Christ has become (Rom 1:3, 2:25; 3:19; 4:18; 6:5; 7:3-4; 9:29; 10:20; 11:5-6, 9, 17, 25, 34; 12:16) a servant (13:4) of the circumcised (Rom 2:25-3:1; 3:30; 4:9-12) on behalf of God's truth (1:18, 25; 2:2, 8, 20; 3:7; 9:1)

to confirm the promises (4:13-14, 16, 20; 9:4, 8-9) made to the fathers, (4:11-12, 16-18; 9:5, 10; 11:28)

9: and thus the Gentiles (1:5, 13; 2:14, 24; 3:29; 4:17-18; 9:24, 30; 10:19; 11:11-13, 25) glorify (1:21; 8:30; 11:13; 15:6) God for his mercy (9:23; 11:21)

Romans 12-15 =

7 Receive one another, then, just as Christ also received you, to God's glory.

Romans 1-4 =

8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of God's truth

Romans 9-11 =

to confirm the promises made to the fathers,

Romans 5-8 =

9 and thus the Gentiles glorify God for his mercy.

And today?

- We are accountable to God
- Individual sensitivity and conscience
- Putting others first for the sake of communion
- Hospitality in practice

- The theological issues of the Reformation
- The practical issues of the Reformation
- Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1999)

- Today: the place of Scripture
- Today: ethical issues
- Today: church order
- Today: how to discern future

Prayer

Loving God,
we give you heartfelt thanks
for your faithful love to us
and to all humanity
disclosed in Jesus, your Son.
Bless our communities of faith, great and small,
that we learn from you
how to be faithful to all we have received,
how to discern what you are asking of us today
and how live together with love and mutual respect.
Send us your Holy Spirit,
your holy Wisdom,
we may walk together the ways of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen