

Romans Summary
Week 21, Wednesday March 8, 2017
Romans 12:1-21

Paul now shifts to the implication of what he has said in the whole letter thus far to draw out the ethical conclusions. If we no longer follow the letter of the law, but rather are included into God's family by faith in Jesus, then how is worship done? It is by giving our whole selves to God in worship and the key to this new worship is to have the mind re-patterned to the life of God. The result of that re-patterning is an ability to discern God's will.

This discernment is the work of the community rather than each individual, so unity is essential for the Christian community which means we have a right estimation of ourselves by measuring up against the faith, rather than each other. Paul explores the metaphor of our diversity and unity by the example of the body: there are many different members, but only one body. We each have been given gifts and we should use those gifts appropriately.

We then have some instruction for the community, namely to love and what that looks like practically. Reject evil, hold on to good. Then how the community should relate to those outside of the community; bless rather than curse, rejoice and mourn, associate with all, and maintain right. Most importantly be at peace allowing God to look after judgment. After all we cannot overcome evil by evil, but rather with good.

“Presenting Ourselves” reflection and discussion questions:

1. Do you see the connection between Romans 12 and the Eucharist? After all, we don't use the Anglican Book of Common Prayer.
2. Why is 'recognition' important for Christians?
3. If Paul is not exhorting the congregation to do better what is he doing?
4. What would happen if each person at Northview this very day prayed seriously to God that we might offer ourselves to his service?