

B.R.E.A.D

Meeting # 3

The Bible Reading Part: People of God - gifted and transformed

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, 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.

The Discussion Part:

1. What is the best gift that you have ever received? Why was it the best? Was it really expensive? Which do you enjoy more – giving gifts or receiving them?
2. When you receive a wonderful gift - how do you respond? What does that gift do to your feelings for the giver? Do you always use the gifts that you have been given?
3. The text above tells us that God is a gift giver. In the first verse the implication is made that God has given us the gift of mercy and the author suggest that the appropriate response is a total giving of ourselves to God {"... present your bodies as a living sacrifice ..."}. Do you think that God asks too much of us by way of a thank you? What do you think that God's word means by asking us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice?

4. Is it easy or hard to be 'conformed to the world'? What kind of transformation do you think a Christian should make in being a part of the body of Christ?

5. Beginning in Verse 6 there is a list of some of the gifts that God gives to His people. What gift do you think that God has given you to use in the body of Christ [yours may not be in this list]?