

Sunday, March 29 ~ Loving Service to Others ~ Romans 12:1-12

Such a wonderful letter from Paul to the Romans, jam packed with knowledge of how to live as Christians. Amazingly, these verses are just as relevant today as they were then. We are urged to not conform to the ways of the world. Easier said than done with all the electronic and social media we allow ourselves to be exposed to. Society tells us to think of ourselves as "Number 1," but the Bible tells us we are to humble ourselves. Just as we get down on a child's level to look in their eyes to get their attention, we should do the same with other people. We shouldn't try to talk to them from a level above; we can have no conceit.

We are to use our spiritual gifts and share them with others. We are all one body in Christ. He is the head and we are all the bits and pieces, and as such we each have special talents that we should use for the common good. We need to remember that God gave us these talents and they did not come about by anything we have done. We should identify our talents and not be boastful of them, but should refine and use them. Practice makes perfect.

Love in action is expected of us. We are to love God, love one another, and do what is good and cling to it.

Betsy and Steve Briley have lived in Madison for about 10 years. She volunteers at the church, Morgan Medical Auxiliary, and the Cultural Center. She plays piano and bridge, belongs to a book club, and is president of her garden club. She wears many hats as a wife, mother, and grandmother. Their youngest son Tyler lives in Denver and will be getting married in August. Ryan, their oldest son, lives in Atlanta with his wife Melissa and their two grandchildren, Hayden and Maddie.

Romans 12:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

## A Living Sacrifice

**12** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform 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.

## Humble Service in the Body of Christ

<sup>3</sup>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 faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your<sup>[a]</sup> faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,<sup>[b]</sup> do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

## Love in Action

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

### Footnotes:

- a. *Romans 12:6* Or *the*
- b. *Romans 12:8* Or *to provide for others*