

- (v1) **"I beseech"** - exhort; appeal; entreat; beg; urge; persuade.  
**"by the mercies of God"** - in view of and because of God's compassion.  
**"present your bodies"** - give your physical body to; offer; a decisive dedication or action.  
**"a living sacrifice"** - natural life is not lost in this sacrifice; continual self-denial; daily.  
**"holy"** - consecrated; set apart for God; a life designed by God for His purpose.  
**"acceptable to God"** - pleasing to God and meeting His expectations.  
**"which is your reasonable service ("spiritual")** - Christian living is reciprocal love; rationale.
- (v2) **"do not be conformed to this world" ("fashioned according to")** - Christ is the role model.  
**"be transformed"** - yes, there is an expected change. Hymn #619 "Buried With Christ"  
**"by the renewing of your mind"** - no more stinking-thinking; it's an attitude adjustment.  
**"that you may prove"** - do this by experience and study the Book (Acts 17:11).  
**"what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"** - discern God's will for us.
- (v3) **"I say, through the grace given to me"** - I speak from experience and inspiration.  
**"to everyone"** - to you and me; to all in the congregation.  
**"not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think"** - (Philippians 3:4 – 14)  
**"think soberly"** - reasonably; a sane estimate of your talents or status.  
**"as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith"** - we all have received something special from God: talent, enthusiasm, desire, opportunity, and ability to learn new things. It is defined in (v4) "many members in one body" and (v6) "gifts differing." After listing some of these divine gifts, (v16) reminds us that we should not boast of it as if it were of our own origin.
- (v4) **"we have many members in one body"** - comparison to the human body with all its different organs working together or as one.  
**"all the members do not have the same function" ("same office")** - all my body parts do not look alike nor do they function the same, though some are "vital organs."  
(v5) **"being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another"**  
 If every one does their work, the body works in unity and is healthy.  
 One body part can't do it all. (1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31)
- (v6) **"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them"**  
 Abilities and opportunities are gifts from God, given by His grace, and given to each of us for the good of all.  
 The following list would include miraculous gifts and gifts, and other gifts are noted in (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, v28-31; Ephesians 4:11-16)  
**"if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith"** - generally understood to be a miraculous ability to speak the mind of God; however, the giftee is exhorted not to go beyond the gift bestowed. (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- (v7) **"or ministry, let us use it in our ministering"** - deacon; servant; practical service.  
**"he who teaches, in teaching"** - let the teacher labor in teaching and give himself to it.  
(v8) **"he who exhorts, in exhortation"** - encourage; stirring speech.  
**"he who gives, with liberality" ("simplicity")** - (2 Corinthians 9:7)  
**"he who leads, with diligence"** - do so with promptness or in earnest.  
**"he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness"** - without complaining; happy to forgive.

(v9) **"Let love be without hypocrisy"** - make it genuine; not pretense or disguise; sincere.  
**"Abhor ... cleave"** - these are intense words (not casual nor lightly regarded).  
**"Abhor what is evil"** - (Psalm 119:104)  
**"Cleave to what is good" ("cling")** - hold on; wed yourselves to the good.

(v10) **"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love"** - (Hebrews 13:1)  
**"in honor giving preference to one another"** - mutual respect; good manners.

(v11) **"not lagging in diligence" ("not slothful in business")** - (Ecclesiastes 9:10)  
**"fervent in spirit"** - aglow; spiritual enthusiasm.

**"serving the Lord"** - a true bondsman of the Lord or slave for the Master.

(v12) **"rejoicing in hope"** - (Philippians 4:4; Hebrews 6:19)

**"patient in tribulation"** - endure affliction; be steadfast in time of trouble.

**"continuing steadfastly in prayer"** - be persistent; maintain the habit of prayer.

(v13) **"distributing to the needs of the saints"** - (Hebrews 6:9 – 11)

**"given to hospitality"** - entertain; cordial; social; gracious; and hospice (be a helper).

(v14) **"Bless those who persecute you ... do not curse"** - don't retaliate.

(v15) **"Rejoice with those who rejoice"** - congratulate; applaud; wish them well.

**"and weep with those who weep"** - we share mutual woes; sympathy.

(v16) **"Be of the same mind toward one another"** - no respect of persons.

**"Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble"** - do not be snooty.

**"Do not be wise in your own opinion"** - see (v3); conceit; haughty; pride-filled.

Don't think to yourself, "I'm always right" or "I'm better than others."

(v17) **"Repay no one evil for evil"** - see (v14); (1 Peter 2:21 – 23).

**"Have regard for good things in the sight of all men" ("provide things honest")** -  
act so that no opportunity for accusation occurs; have an honest reputation.

(v18) **"If it is possible, as much as depends on you"** - individual responsibility; it's me.

**"live peaceable with all men"** - without compromising truth, right, and justice,  
for the sake of peace, we sacrifice for the greater good of peace. Do all I can.

(v19) **"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves"** - see (v17 and v14)

**"but rather give place to wrath"** - don't become vigilante; use lawful means.

**"for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord"** - (Hebrews 10:30-31)

(v20) **"Therefore, If your enemy is hungry, feed him"** - help those in need.

**"If he is thirsty, give him a drink"** -

**"For is so doing"** - it's a positive action; it's letting your light shine.

**"you will heap coals of fire on his head"** - the emphasis is on what we are to do.

We hope our action will cut into their conscience and melt their heart.

We hope they will feel a burning sense of shame and start behaving rightly.

(v21) **"Do not be overcome by evil"** - we must always do what is right;

Do not let evil get the best of you or lead you to do evil in return.

**"but overcome evil with good"** - that's the Spirit; it's a heavenly view of doing things.  
(Romans 13:14) **"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and  
make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."**