

# **SAINTS SHOULD SERVE!**

## **Romans 12**

### **What makes a good serve?**

#### **I. CONSECRATED SERVICE (1-2)**

##### **A. THE REASON (1a)**

1. Because of Paul's message
2. Based on God's mercies
  - Condemnation (1:1-3:20) met justification (3:21-5:21) and sanctification (6:1-8:39) gives way to satisfaction in a faithful God (9:1-11:36)

##### **B. THE DUTIES (1b-2b)**

1. Present our bodies to God (1b)
2. Be unconformed to the world (2a)
3. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (2b)

##### **C. THE RESULT (2c)**

1. Discernment: Proving what is the will of God
2. Discovery: That God's will is good and acceptable and perfect

#### **II. CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE (3-13)**

##### **A. BEING USEFUL IN YOUR CHURCH (3-8)**

1. Having the right attitude (3-5)
  - Humility (3a), thoughtfulness (3b), reasonableness (4) and awareness (5)
2. Having the right actions (6-8)
  - Using your gift
    - a. Prophecy: Communicating God's message to strengthen others
    - b. Service: Aiding those in need
    - c. Teaching: Clearly explaining and applying what God's Word reveals
    - d. Exhortation: Encouraging others to action
    - e. Giving: The ability to see and meet a need
    - f. Leading: Organizing and administering with harmony and efficiency
    - g. Mercy: Comforting the afflicted

## B. BEING LOVING IN YOUR CHURCH (9-13)

1. A Pure Love (9-10)
  - a. Without hypocrisy: A sincere love that is not fake or faulty (9a)
  - b. Abhorring evil and clinging to good: Demonstrating discernment (9b)
  - c. Devoted to others: A deliberateness in preferring others (10)
2. A Passionate Love (11-12)
  - a. Not lagging behind: With an enduring diligence (11a)
  - b. Fervent in spirit: Serving with enthusiasm (11b)
  - c. Rejoicing in hope: Looking forward to what lies ahead (12a)
  - d. Persevering in tribulation: Steadfast in distress or under pressure (12b)
  - e. Devoted to prayer: Earnestly engaged in prayer (12c)
3. A Practical Love (13)
  - a. Contributing to the needs of the saints: Sharing in their burdens (13a)
  - b. Practicing hospitality: Literally > Being fond of strangers (13b)

## III. CIVIC SERVICE (14-21)

### A. SEEK HARMONY (14-16)

1. Bless persecutors (14) > Say good things about them
2. Practice empathy (15) > Be easily stirred with their human condition
3. Demonstrate no prejudice (16)

### B. AVOID RETRIBUTION (17-18)

1. Punishment is not our obligation (17a)
2. Be preoccupied with what all see as right (17b)
3. Live peaceably with all if at all possible (18)

### C. REPUDIATE RETALIATION (19)

- Vengeance is God's business not ours

### D. OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD (20-21)

1. Care about your enemy (20)
2. Conquer evil (21)

## CONCLUSION:

**We should all work on our serve ...**

***- Not to make it unreturnable, but to make it unforgettable!***

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