

After the parenthetical explanation of the history and future of the children of Israel, Paul here begins to outline the *practical* consequences of the blessed and secure position in Christ that was drawn for us in Chapter 8.

Verse 1 speaks of sacrifice. Not the animal sacrifices of the law of Moses. In fact, the law is not mentioned again in the book of Romans. A better sacrifice is desired: “And to love [God] with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices” (Mark 12:33)

What other sacrifices are suitable for “the freedom of the glory of the children of God”?

“... the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God” (Phil. 4:18)

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name” (Heb. 13:15).

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Heb. 13:16).

And finally “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer **spiritual** sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

Questions:

1. What does it mean to present your body as a sacrifice?
2. Describe one area where you think it's important to not be conformed to the world.
3. How are we told to discern the will of God? Can you think of other scriptures that also tell us?
4. Verses 3-8 speak of the believer acting within the Body of Christ, the church. What problems can arise in an assembly if people do not follow the directions of verse 3?

5. How do the members of the body here in chapter 12 differ from the members in chapter 7?

6. Give an example of how a person might use each of these gifts of grace (and think of who in our own assembly possesses that gift):

Prophecy

Service / Ministry

Teaching

Exhortation

Giving

Leading

Showing mercy

7. This is not a complete lists of the spiritual gifts that God has given to the assembly. What others can you think of?