



Grace Group Guide



United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!



ICEBREAKER:

1) What is one thing that you find fascinating about the way God has designed the human body?

Transition: We're continuing our series on "The Glory of the Church," and this week, we're going to focus on the church as **the body of Christ**. As you'll see, the emphasis of this picture is on our interconnectedness as believers. We are individual members of a larger body, and we all have an important role to play.

-DISCUSSION-

Leader Note: *The goal of these questions is to help your group understand the flow of Paul's logic in this passage. You can revise some of these questions and organize them differently, but the goal is that the group would see how the various parts fit together be able to summarize the passage in one-two sentences.*

Read Romans 12:1-2

- **In these verses, Paul calls us to do three things. What are they?**

- 1) to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice (v. 1)
- 2) to avoid being conformed to the pattern of this world (v. 2a)
- 3) to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (v. 2b)

Transition: What does this mean? What does this look like? To answer this, continue reading Romans 12:3-8.

Read Romans 12:3-8.

- Based on Rom. 12:3-8, what is involved in offering our bodies as a "living sacrifice" and "renewing our minds."
 - Not *thinking* of ourselves too highly but with sober judgment (v. 3)
 - Using our gifts to build up the body (vv. 6-8)
- **KEY:** *Why* should we do these things? Why is this the mindset that we should have and the way we should act?
 - Because, in Christ, "we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (v. 5)

As a group, try to summarize what this passage teaches us about in just one or two sentences.

- Example: As Christians, we are to think and act out of the recognition that we belong to a larger body: the body of Christ. This includes thinking rightly about ourselves and our role in the body and using our gifts to build up other members in the body.

(Optional): Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (or offer a quick overview of it). You will see that Paul uses the very same logic there as he does here in Romans 12.

-REFLECTION-

- Are you living like you are part of the larger body of Christ? Why or why not?
 - Do you view others above yourself? Or do you think of yourself too highly?
 - Are you an active participant in the life of the church and using your gifts to build up the body?
- What would it look like if everyone in the church embraced these truths? What would your life look like if you embraced these truths?
- What do you think hinders the church (or you personally) from living this out? What causes us to divide?

-APPLICATION-

- Renew your mind! Pray and ask God to show you the places where your thinking is more conformed to the pattern of this world than to the truth of God's Word. And thinking especially of what Paul says in Rom. 12, ask Him to help you think rightly about yourself and about the church.
- Do you know your gifts? And if so, are you using them? If not, ask someone who knows you well to help you identify your gifts, and look for ways to use them in service to the church.
- Pray that our church (WL Grace) and the Church (global) would learn to embrace these truths. Pray that the church would be unified.

-PRAY-

- Pray for unity in the church (both local and global)
- Pray that the members of your group would contribute positively to this unity, using their gifts to build up the church