

## ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY

### 3. Everyone a Living Sacrifice — Everyone Gifted and Giving Romans 12:1-8

#### Discussion Questions

In Romans 12:1, Paul makes his plea – “**I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,...**”. A quick survey of Romans 1-11 shows an abundance of mercies of God toward us including:

- Christ’s atoning work on the Cross
- Wrath of God averted from us (placed onto Christ Himself)
- Our reconciliation with God is through faith, not works
- Not just for Jews only, but for all peoples
- The giving of the Holy Spirit to us
- No longer a slave to sin
- No longer under condemnation
- Adopted as sons of the Father and fellow heirs with Christ
- Being conformed to the image of Christ
- Guarantee of eternal glory with Christ
- Love of God toward us cannot be stopped

Now therefore by these mercies of God (and many more) ...

1. In light of the many mercies of God, what does Paul plead for us as individual believers to do?
2. How does our current culture say we should live? How is this different and opposed to what the Holy Spirit says?
3. What is the importance of community with respect to being a living sacrifice? How does this “living together” play out in practice, especially with respect to spiritual gifts?
4. In verse 12:2, Paul tells us what should inform us in the way we live each day. What is that and how do we know it?
5. In what ways (perhaps over the past year or two) have you found yourself unknowingly following what the cultures says? What occurred to make you realize that and how did you respond?

6. Dedicating your life to service within the church can lead to some unintended consequences. What types of circumstances such as those mentioned by Pastor Richard can come about? What leads to these and how do we guard against them?