1Thess #75

Do not think more highly of self than you ought to.

Let us open today in Romans chapter twelve. We will be remaining in chapter twelve for the majority of this message.

One of the key principles within the teaching of the book of Romans is a call to adjust to the justice of GOD. To pivot from secular wisdom and cosmic solutions and wash yourself clean – mind and body.

Romans chapter 12 is a strong lesson on the Royal Family Honor Code that the Apostle Paul puts great efforts into.

/If the BELIEVER is refusing to grow up which means, neglecting the two power options, this is a losing proposition to assume they will understand and apply the RFHC. The Bel must be a student of the doctrine of authority, gaining familiarity with establishment principles and the 4 divine institutions. This type of Bel understands - Either you adjust to the justice of God or the justice of God will adjust to you.\

The Apostle Paul will emphasize that the Bels life, is a journey between the salvation gate toward SM. It is within that journey of forward motion, that the RFHC will develop and become important in the Bels walk.

/Rom 12:1 Therefore **I urge**(*parakaleō*)**you**, brothers *and sisters,* **by the mercies of God, to present your bodies** as a living and holy sacrifice, **acceptable to God**, *which is* your spiritual serviceof worship.

Instruction with urgency, guidance designed to bring comfort at a later time. The present tense, tells us Apostle Paul had been teaching this and kept instructing Bels.\

PARA-KA-LAYO, which as many of you know comes from a set of root words that make up PARA-KLET-US (the comforter – HS) it is used here for urgent advice or guidance.

It also meant to encourage by giving advice.

/Rom 12:1 - *present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God,*

This is the Apostle Paul reminding the Bel that we all have to have a life that continually adjusts to the justice of God. The righteousness of Jesus Christ is the only way a flawed human can become holy & acceptable. \

[Rom 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/2/s_1058002) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Verse one into verse two shines a light on the two power options for the Bel.

/Rom 12:2 – *transformed by the renewing of your mind;*

Present tense, imperative mood, meaning this was a habitual command. The Apostle Paul was stating, this needs to be a lifestyle and I am commanding you that it has to be this way – you will be molded by the world or molded by the WORD! \

Some of the Bels in Rome were very worldly minded. Bels who lacked a serious intent about BD.

Conformed (*syschēmatizō)* is a Greek word - SUE-SAH-MAT-IDZO, for molded or to walk in a pattern…to take the shape of something. To fashion your life after something or someone.

/Internal growth will lead to external results over time. What you absorb and gather in your soul as truth, related to your norms and standards, will determine if you gain spiritual momentum toward maturity. Or the cosmic system will touch you, influencing and eventually shaping who you will be in the future.\

You can not play the middle ground there is no gray area - and that is the illusion from Satan. The illusion is that you can be your own man or be your own woman apart from God.

That began right in the Garden!

Either BD will begin to change your life or cosmic viewpoint will creep in – there is no middle ground.

/[Rom 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/3/s_1058003) For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think;** but to think so as to **have sound judgment**, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Every Bel needs to find confidence in who they are in Christ. Not the arrogance of self (flesh), which leads to an unbalanced life.\

The RFHC demands a Bel who has a level of maturity which means they have their life in some form of order.

They have balance in their life – sound judgement, speaks to application of BD – knowledge that turns into wisdom.

God’s grace is what enables mankind to function everyday – Bel or Unbel, God’s grace was given to the whole world at the creation of the human race.

 REPEAT

There are levels to the grace of GOD which are released through the divine justice system and the mature Bel learns about God’s grace and lives in it… and they are eternally grateful for it!

Growing and living in God’s grace bring true humility.

[Rom 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/4/s_1058004) For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body’s parts do not have the same function,

True humility does not allow pride and ego to bring strife among the brethren.

/[Rom 12:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/5/s_1058005) so we, who are many, **are one body in Christ**, and individually parts of one another.

The RFHC becomes a grace filled journey where we recognize OTHERS! Also, that life, is beyond what we want and what we get! Focus on self dwindles greatly as SM increases. \

Application of the RFHC means we know we are an individual member of a larger body and we all have responsibilities to one another.

/[Rom 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/6/s_1058006) However, since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,** *each of us is to use them properly:* if prophecy, in proportion to *one’s* faith;

The RFHC functions when there is no inordinate competition and popularity contest among Bels. The chain of command and individual responsibilities guide the Bel.\

Keep in mind this was written around 58 A.D., which means the NT was in the process of being written.

Prophecy in the NT was related to those within the inner circle of the early church, who worked with the Apostles and writers of the NT scriptures. Contrary to some denominational dogma, after the completed canon of scripture - around 95 A.D. many spiritual gifts and prophetic offices were gone.

REPEAT

[Rom 12:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/7/s_1058007) if service, in the *act of* serving; or the one who teaches, in the *act of* teaching;

[Rom 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/8/s_1058008) or the one who exhorts, in the *work of* exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

/The RFHC recognizes the importance of every member – Pastor-teacher, evangelist, deacon or prep school, administration as well as congregation. Also, the continual need and basic calling of giving and serving as a responsibility to all members of the body. The body does not function when members neglect their calling.\

The greater good of the body takes on a deeper meaning for the Bel who fully understands the RFHC. It is because they have learned the doctrine of leadership, the doctrine of authority - they know the doctrines related to establishment principles.

/A society, a church or family and a business all thrive when the chain of command is in order, authority is upheld and freedom and privacy are respected. The RFHC is a spiritual system, therefore it is dependent on these same doctrines and principles. The RFHC does not thrive under lack of respect toward authority, privacy and freedom. The RFHC does not thrive under tyranny, greed, corruption and pettiness or jealousy. \

/[Rom 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/9/s_1058009) **Love *must be* free ofhypocrisy**. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good.

Love (agape’) from the filling of the Spirit becomes the motivator in the Christian way of life. This love is the driving force that keeps the RFHC pressing forward.\

The immature Bel struggles with PSD’s like impersonal, unconditional love. That is why the RFHC is used habitually and successfully in the life of Bels who have stepped up into SM.

This is a skill set that takes time, you can not fake this for any length of time.

CLING to what is good - is the Apostle Paul again using that Greek present tense, speaking to a lifestyle. You can not cling to and hold onto that which is good in your flesh.

/[Rom 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/10/s_1058010) *Be* **devoted to one another in brotherly love** (*Philadelphia)*; give **preference** to one another **in honor**,

The mature Bel begins to develop family love – intimate love toward members of the Royal family. You give high regard to true fellowship and members of aristocracy.\

Many aspects of the RFHC relate directly to your calling as an ambassador for Christ.

/Your Royal Ambassadorship is an office that demands proper protocol. You are representing Christ on earth; you are a reflection of the heavenly kingdom. The office of ambassador calls for a balanced lifestyle, a representative who has knowledge and poise, empathy and confidence. The RFHC, once it is digested and applied habitually will bring out qualities of a seasoned ambassador. \

A good Ambassador will treat others with respect and honor, they follow protocol to the letter - they know they represent someone and something bigger than themselves. The Ambassador is under contract from the king - under the watchful eye of a kingdom.

Even though the RFHC applies to BELS there is a carry-over of some of those skills within the lost and dying world of Unbels.

/[Rom 12:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/11/s_1058011) **not lagging behind** (*oknēros*)**in diligence**, fervent in spirit, **serving the Lord**;

The Bel walking forward toward maturity is fulfilling the role of Ambassador while putting the RFHC on display. They can not be unorganized, slothful and negative or careless.\

OCK-NAY-ROSS, speaks to not only laziness it means backward motion.

They recognize they are in service to the LORD. They are not negligent of their duties. Service to TLJC points to our Royal Ambassadorship.

Your Royal priesthood is a spiritual journey only - your Royal Ambassadorship points to the lifestyle on display in this temporal walk.

[Rom 12:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/12/s_1058012) rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

Again, we see the Greek present tense – the Apostle Paul is stating be prepared now and in the future to withstand the challenges and tribulations.

Also, to remain devoted…rejoicing for the opportunity. This is not the lesson for the baby Bel – this points us to, at least Spiritual Self-esteem.

/[Rom 12:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/13/s_1058013) **contributing** to the needs of the saints, **practicing hospitality**.

The Bel who finally gets beyond the salvation gate should be organized enough to use time, talent and treasure to support BD and those in the RF in need.\

Practicing hospitality – really speaks to impersonal, unconditional love for all of mankind – PSD #8.

[Rom 12:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/14/s_1058014) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

This chapter is one of the great teachings on the RFHC.

A Bel who is stepping toward SM can handle persecution, they have learned how to pray for those who attack them.

[Rom 12:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/15/s_1058015) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

The RFHC demands that we engage in celebration and loss within the members of the RF.

 We have the empathy and sympathy to walk alongside our Royal family during the good times, the bad and the ugly!

/[Rom 12:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/16/s_1058016) **Be of the same mind toward one another**; do not be **haughty** in mind, but **associate with the lowly**. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Fellowship is based upon doctrine in the soul. This is why some Bels struggle to connect to others who have not participated in actual growth through BD.\

Being of the same mind happens when Bels fellowship with those who have been positive toward BD.

The RFHC calls the mature Bel to accept the confused or weak Bel along with the baby Bel. To be willing to open your arms to anyone who is need without bias.

It doesn’t mean you rescue every Unbel off the streets!

It means you have a capacity for Godly love that goes way beyond close friends and family.

Judgmental Bels struggle with the RFHC – pride filled Bels struggle with the RFHC.

There is no level of SM where arrogance and a haughty heart are active in a Bels life.

[Rom 12:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/17/s_1058017) Never repay evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all people.

/[Rom 12:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/18/s_1058018) **If possible,** so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.

The RFHC does not approve of strife and bitterness. If it is within your power or reach to make a situation right – smooth over an angry ripple, the mature Bel always makes that effort. Grace in operation. \

IF POSSIBLE – does not mean you have to continually go out of your way to apologize and chase after a bitter person.

It does not mean you allow an enemy to use you as a doormat!

There is a common-sense approach. It means when you can and God has given you the opening, you turn bad situations into a display of HIS grace.

[Rom 12:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/19/s_1058019) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God,* for it is written: “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

The Apostle Paul now uses several OT scriptures to teach this principle –

(Deu 32:35, Psa 94:1-2, Isa 33:22)

[Rom 12:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/20/s_1058020) “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.”

Prov 25:21-22 is the other OT scripture used by Paul - which has a hint of sarcasm woven into it.

Revenge motivation comes from a bitter spirit deep within the soul.

/Yet the truth of the matter of operating in God’s grace even when others are attacking you, is that it will either be a wake-up for them to come to know GOD or possibly come back to GOD. Or they will become more bitter and hard hearted which is a form of heaping hot coals upon them. Either way the RFHC calls for God’s grace in action to resolve disputes and personality conflicts. \

[Rom 12:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/12/21/s_1058021) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

You can only overcome evil but walking in the RFHC with success by being confident and consistent in your NEW NATURE.