

WINSOME COMMUNITY

Small Group Discussion # 2 - Saturday Morning Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- 1) When love is strong in a church community, people are drawn in.
Tell stories where you have seen this happen.

- 2) *Romans 12:2* tells us that we are *transformed by the renewal of our minds*, which means (among other things) that we grow into an attractive and satisfying community by repeatedly choosing to believe certain things about ourselves and each other. Three of the beliefs we discussed in the talk are:
 - We are beloved (fully forgiven and welcomed *by the mercies of God*—v. 1).
 - We belong to each other (we are *individually members one of another*—v. 5).
 - We are on our way to becoming beautiful (we are *holy and acceptable to God* and we are *being transformed*—v. 2).Tell stories about how believing one or more of these realities (either about yourself or about someone else) has helped you get along with people.

- 3) Charlie talked about the unevenness in our experience of life's "good things". How have you thought about and leveraged for the benefit of others some of those "good things".