

SERMON NOTES

BE THE CHURCH AS A PEOPLE

Romans 12:1-21



BIG IDEA: Because of God's mercy in Christ, the church is a transformed people who belong to one another and display the gospel through humble service and genuine love.

APPLICATION GUIDE

JANUARY 18, 2026

DISCUSS

What are some things that make a group of people feel like a community rather than just a crowd?

EXPLORE

According to verses 1–2, what motivates the Christian life, and how does Paul describe true worship?

In verses 3–8, how does Paul connect humility, spiritual gifts, and belonging to one body?

How does verse 9 function as a heading for verses 9–21, and what stands out to you about Paul’s description of genuine love?

Which descriptions of love feel especially countercultural?

APPLY

Where are you most tempted to approach church like a consumer rather than a living sacrifice?

How do you tend to think about your role in the body of Christ—too highly, too lightly, or with sober judgment? How might that affect the way you serve others?

Which description of genuine love in Romans 12:9–21 do you find most challenging right now—and why?

How might your participation in the life of the church change if you truly viewed other believers as members of one another?

COMMIT

Commit to one intentional act of embodied love within the church this week—serving, encouraging, giving, reconciling, or showing hospitality.

Further Study:

- How does Romans 12 compare with Paul’s teaching on the church as a body in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4?
- What role does the renewal of the mind play throughout Scripture in shaping God’s people for faithful living together? Consider passages such as Psalm 1:1–3, Psalm 19:7–11, John 17:17, and 2 Timothy 3:16–17.