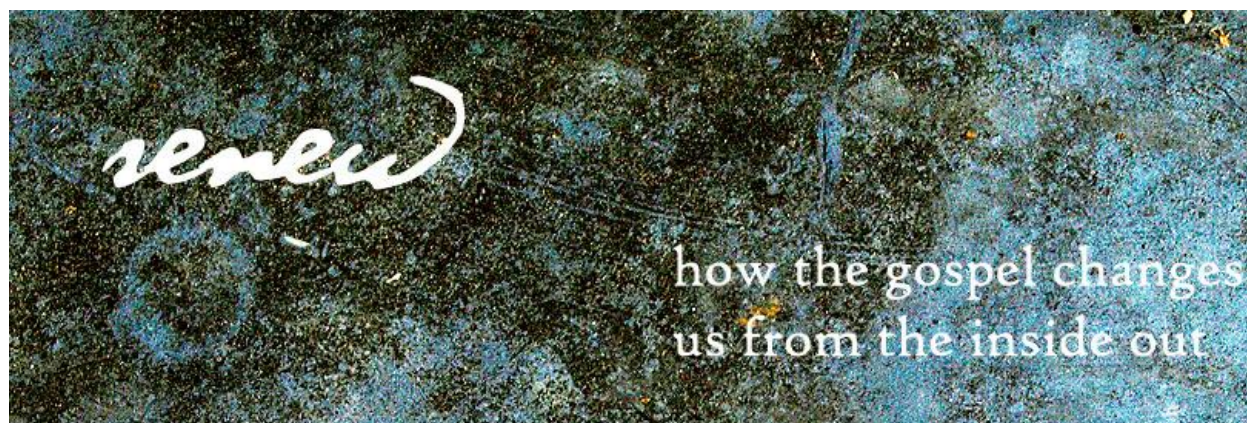


# **Renew:** **How the Gospel Changes Us from the Inside Out**



**Community Group Study Guide  
February – April 2010**

**Holy Trinity Church, Chicago**

**Downtown and North Side Congregations**

## Romans 11:33-12:2

### Week of January 25<sup>th</sup>

Community Group calendar: **Study**

Text: **Romans 11:33-12:2**

Ways in which you will interact with the text:

- Personal study (we recommend three separate readings)
- Listen to sermon preached on January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Group discussion during week of January 25<sup>th</sup>

### Romans 11:33-12:2 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?”

<sup>35</sup> “Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?”

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

### A Living Sacrifice

**12** 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.

### First Reading – *What does this passage tell you about God?*

1. Paul states that God is worthy of our worship in 12:1 in response to who God is in the previous 4 verses. How do these attributes of God more readily lead to giving your life to God?
  2. What is Paul reacting to in 11:33-36? How does this doxology fit into the whole of Romans?
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Second Reading – *What does this passage tell you about yourself?***

1. This passage implies that our lives get trapped in unhealthy and sinful patterns. How does the Gospel set us free to what God would have us be? (See also: Romans 6:9-14).
  2. This passage also implies we can misuse our minds, in that they can be conformed to this world. Explain how you may have misused your mind in this way.
  3. How can the use of your body and mind be a gauge for how well you are discerning and following the will of God? Explain your answer from this passage.
  4. Meditate on the connection between 11:33-36 and 12:1-2. What is the relationship between what God has done and our lifestyle of worship?
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Third Reading – *What does this passage tell you about how you should live?***

1. What are examples of ‘sacrifice’ in the Old Testament? (See for example, in particular Leviticus 4, and Leviticus 1-7 in general). How do those sacrifices contrast with the “living sacrifice” Paul exhorts us to in 12:1?
2. How can you be “transformed by the renewal of your mind”? Explain what specific steps you would have to take in order to practice this transformation.
3. Explain why it is crucial to connect Paul’s exhortations in 12:1-2, to the attributes of God in 11:33-36.

- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Summarize the passage:**

What is the **theme** of the passage (i.e., a sentence that captures the timeless essence of the passage)?

What is the **aim** of the passage (i.e., how should you respond to this passage in thought and behavior)?

## Romans 12:3-8

### Week of February 1<sup>st</sup>

Community Group calendar: **Study**

Texts: **Romans 12:3-8**

Ways in which you will interact with these texts:

- Personal study (we recommend three separate readings)
- Listen to sermon preached on January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Group discussion during week of February 1<sup>st</sup>

### Romans 12:3-8 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> 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.

### First Reading – *What does this passage tell you about God?*

1. List God's actions in this passage. How does God create community?
  2. How does the unity and diversity of the body reflect the unity and diversity of God's character?
  3. Describe Christ's role in the body (the church). Explain the significance of Christ's role. (See Romans 1:5, 7; 3:24; 6:14 etc).
- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Second Reading – *What does this passage tell you about yourself?***

1. Paul describes certain things (“grace” and “gifts”) his original audience received from God in this passage. List out what have you received from God compared to Paul’s original audience? What difference do these gifts make in your life?
  
  2. There are a number of spiritual gifts passages in the New Testament, none of which are a complete list of spiritual gifts. Compare this gift passage with other gift passages: 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:10-11. What gifts and talents do you have to offer the growth of the local church?
  
  3. Explain why is it important to be careful in how we use our gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13)?
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- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Third Reading – *What does this passage tell you about how you should live?***

1. What kind of involvement does Paul expect from the body?
  
2. Explain how you as an individual member, and the body of members of the church, complement each other. Explain how this is a better way than disunity and lack of service in the body.

- Write out any prayer requests that come to mind as you read this text and interact with these questions.

**Summarize the passage:**

What is the **theme** of the passage (i.e., a sentence that captures the timeless essence of the passage)?

What is the **aim** of the passage (i.e., how should you respond to this passage in thought and behavior)?