

# Why Church?

20  
21

## WE ARE HERE TO SERVE

May 23, 2021

Romans 12:1 – 8

Brian Rayburn

### MESSAGE NOTES

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. — Romans 12:1 – 8*

*The proud man LOVES his illusion of self-sufficiency. The spiritually poor man loves his very insufficiency. The proud man claims honor for having what no one else has. The humble man begs for a share in what everybody else has received. The humble man desires to be filled to overflowing with the kindness and mercy of God, through others.  
— Thomas Merton*

*For Paul, the Christian story is that the believer is to work out what God has worked in. — Charles Talbert*

What relationship am I most comfortable in and am I using it to hide?

Have I made a commitment to this church, and, if so, am I holding up my end of the bargain?

When I show up, am I offering my truest vulnerable self?

*The community of love becomes visible in hearts who reveal themselves to each other. You and I seek and find one another and pour ourselves into the other — and reality and truth become the same thing. — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

# Why Church?

## DISCUSSION

- What stuck out to you about this weekend's message?
- Reread Romans 12:1 – 8. How have you traditionally thought about these verses, and what changed this weekend?
- What "gifts" have you traditionally thought you possessed and how do you view them now?
- What is your own definition of "belonging" as it pertains to the body of Christ?
- In what ways is it easier to "grow" spiritually in isolation or on your own, and in what ways is it harder or more difficult?
- Verse 2 talks about "conforming" to the world's ways. What are the obvious ways Christians may be doing that and some not so obvious ways?
- Brian mentioned other types of relationships that we all have, but that ARE NOT Christian community. What are some ways you can take other forms of relationship and move them into the greater form?
- What would prioritizing other's well-being mean YOU would have to change?