

^{12.1} Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, through the Creator's compassion to offer your bodies as living, holy, and pleasing sacrifices to the Creator. This must be the pattern of your liturgical-worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age! Instead, be transformed by the renewing of your mind to recognize the Creator's will—what is good, pleasing, and mature.

³ For through the generosity which was given to me, I say to everyone dwelling among you: Do not think more highly of yourself than is necessary. Instead be self-controlled in your thinking. The Creator has distributed a measure of faithfulness to each. ⁴ In one body there are many members, yet all the members do not have the same role. ⁵ Thus, we who are many are one Body in Christ. Every member belongs to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts according to the generosity given to us. If your gift is prophecy, then prophecy according to your measure of faithfulness. ⁷ If your gift is service, then use it for serving. If your gift is teaching, then use it for teaching. ⁸ If your gift is helping, then use it for helping. If your gift is giving, then give with sincerity. If your gift is leading, then lead with passionate energy. If your gift is giving mercy, then give mercy with cheerfulness.

⁹ Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Take care of each other as brothers and sisters, while being the first to honor each other. ¹¹ Do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with speed and enthusiasm through the Spirit. ¹² Rejoice with hope. Stay calm in suffering. Be constant in prayer. ¹³ Be in communion with the needs of the saints. Pursue hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you—bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who are rejoicing. Weep with those who are weeping. ¹⁶ Think the same thing as each other. Do not be ambitious, but walk together with the lowly. Do not be self-centered. ¹⁷ Never repay evil with evil. Be considerate of what is good for all people. ¹⁸ Do whatever you are able to make peace with all people. ¹⁹ Do not defend yourselves, loved ones, but give space for the Creator's discipline. For it is written in Deuteronomy 32, "*Defense belongs to me, I will repay,*" says the Lord. ²⁰ Instead, as Proverbs 25 says, "*If your enemy is hungry, then feed him. If he is thirsty, then give him a drink. For by doing this you will pile coals of fire upon his head.*" ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

^{13.1} Every soul must submit to the governing authorities. For there is no authority that is not controlled by the Creator. The authorities that exist have been arranged by the Creator. ² Therefore, the one who revolts against the authority is resisting the ordering work of the Creator. Those resisting the authorities will bring judgment upon themselves. ³ Good work does not fear the rulers, only evil does. Do you want to no longer fear the authorities? Then do good and you will have recognition from the authorities. ⁴ For the authorities are a servant of the Creator for your good. But if you do bad, then be afraid. For the authorities do not ineffectively swing their sword. For the authorities are a defensive servant of the Creator to bring discipline upon the one who is practicing evil. ⁵ Therefore, submission is necessary, not only because of discipline, but also because of conscience. ⁶ Because of this, you also must pay taxes. For the authorities are workers of the Creator focused on

this task. ⁷ Give away the things owed to all. Taxes to the one owed taxes. Follow-through to the one owed follow-through. Fear to the one owed fear. Honor to the one owed honor.

⁸ You must owe nothing to anyone except love for each other. For the one who loves the other has already fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the command, do not break marriage promises, do not kill, do not take what is not given to you, do not desire, and every other command, is summed up in this word from Leviticus 19, “*Love your fellow creature as much as yourself.*” ¹⁰ Love works no evil against its fellow creature. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹ Do this while knowing the season, that the hour to wake up from sleep is already here! For our salvation is at hand when we are faithful! ¹² The night has faded and the day is at hand! Therefore, put away the works of darkness and put on the instruments of light! ¹³ Let us walk as if we are living in the day, not in luxury and self-indulgence, not in sexual immorality and cravings, not with competition and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Christ Jesus and do not feed the desires of the flesh!