

## **Series on Romans for Airdrie Baptist Church, Autumn 2021**

### **Session 9. Romans 12**

#### **The Big “*Therefore*”: A New Community in Faith**

The turn of page between chapter 11 and chapter 12 brings us down to earth abruptly: from a hymn of praise to God on account of His unsearchable ways in the history of mankind, to a simple, logical consequence from everything we have learned.

Theological foundations have been laid concerning God’s power and holiness, His grace in the face of mankind’s rebellion, and the idea that faith alone secures mankind’s justification and salvation regardless of their status or stock. Nations and notions have been reviewed, and the overarching sovereignty of God has been established.

Now Paul turns his attention to the one question we should always ask when we learn Theology: “What difference does it make to know this?” The first difference we should consider is how we act in community.

*Therefore*, in light of God’s many-faceted mercy, *serve*!

#### **A. New Life Involves a Change in Thinking 12:1-2**

1. You have been given new life that you didn’t deserve
2. So rethink your old ways and learn to live a new life that pleases God

#### **B. New Life Involves Humble, Realistic Service 12:3-8**

1. Don’t be self-serving
2. We are all different but equally important in Christ
3. Serve one another willingly according to your differences

#### **C. New Life Involves Ethical and Moral Vigor 12:9-13**

1. Engage in what is good
2. Be energetic about it

#### **D. New Life Involves Forbearance, Empathy and Charity 12:14-21**

1. Invert your old instincts about arguments
2. Don’t preempt God in your condemnation of people
3. Rather treat your enemies as people in need of help