

June 14, 2026

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
Romans: For Today's World –Chapter 12,13**

"Designed for His Glory: Living in God's Will"

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. "*Romans For Today's World*" highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

Introduction

We all at times have asked the question...*What is God's will for my life?* We search for answers in career choices, relationships, and life decisions. But in Romans 12–13, the Apostle Paul gives us a breathtaking answer:

God's will is not primarily about what you *do*—it's about who you *become*, who you *are*. God has designed you for His glory. He has a blueprint for your body, your gifts, your obedience, and your daily life. Today, we will discover that living in God's will means aligning every part of our lives with His glorious design.

- 1. Designed for Worship: Our Bodies as Living Sacrifices**
- 2. Designed for Unity: Our Gifts in Faithful Service**
- 3. Designed for Order: Our Obedience as Witness**
- 4. Designed for Holiness: Our Lives Clothed in Christ**

I. Designed for Worship: Our Bodies as Living Sacrifices

Romans 12:1–2

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Rom. 12:1–2 NLT)

Paul begins with a plea—not a command, but an earnest appeal rooted in mercy. Because of everything God has done for us through Christ, the only reasonable response is to offer our entire selves back to Him. In the Old Testament, sacrifices were slain on the altar; but now, God calls us to be *living* sacrifices—alive, active, and continually offered in worship. This is not just about Sunday morning; it's about Monday through Saturday as well. Your body—your hands, your feet, your eyes, your tongue—belongs to God. Worship is no longer confined to a temple; *you* are the temple. And transformation begins not with behavior modification, but with a renewed mind. When we stop conforming to the world's patterns and allow God to reshape our thinking, we begin to discern His will—and we discover that His will is good, pleasing, and perfect. This is the foundation of living by design: presenting ourselves wholly to God as an act of worship.

II. Designed for Unity: Our Gifts in Faithful Service

Romans 12:3–8

(Rom. 12:3–5 NLT)..."Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

(Rom. 12:6–8 NLT) ..."In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

God's design for His church is not robotic uniformity, but unity in diversity. Just as a human body has many parts—each with a unique function—so the body of Christ is made up of many members, each gifted differently by God's grace. Paul warns us against two dangers: thinking too highly of ourselves and thinking too little. Both distort God's design. Grace-fueled humility and grace-anchored confidence—this is the soil in which spiritual gifts flourish and faithful service thrives.

Notice that every gift Paul mentions is meant for *service*—prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing kindness. None of these gifts are for personal glory; all are for building up the body. When we faithfully use our gifts, we contribute to the harmony and health of the church. When we withhold them or misuse them, the body suffers. God has designed you with specific gifts for a specific purpose. The question is not *if* you are gifted, but *how* you will steward what God has given you for the sake of others.

III. Designed for Order: Our Obedience as Witness

Romans 13:1–10

Romans 13:1, 4 NLT..."*Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God... The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good.*"

Romans 13:8, 10 NLT..."*Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law... Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.*"

This section of Scripture has challenged believers for centuries, yet Paul's point is clear: *God is a God of order, not chaos*. He has established structures of authority for the good of society, and our submission to those authorities—so long as it does not contradict obedience to God—is part of our Christian witness. When we pay our taxes, respect those in leadership, and live as law-abiding citizens, we reflect the character of a God who values order and justice.

But Paul doesn't stop there. He reminds us that our ultimate obligation is love. Every command—do not murder, do not steal, do not covet—is summed up in this: *love your neighbor as yourself*. Our obedience to earthly authorities and to God's commands is not mere rule-keeping; it is an expression of love. When the world sees Christians living with integrity, honoring authority, and loving their neighbors, they see a witness to the God who designed us for order and for love.

IV. Designed for Holiness: Our Lives Clothed in Christ **Romans 13:11–14**

"This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires." (Rom. 13:11–14 NLT)

Paul concludes with urgency:

Wake up! Time is short. The return of Christ draws nearer with every passing day. In light of this, how should we live? Paul uses the vivid imagery of clothing. We are to strip off the dirty garments of sin—the wild living, the immorality, the quarreling and jealousy—

and put on the shining armor of right living.

But the ultimate garment is not a set of behaviors; it is a Person. *Clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ*. When we put on Christ, His purity becomes our purity. His love becomes our love. His holiness covers us and transforms us from the inside out. This is God's design for our daily lives: not exasperating self-effort, but the joyful, moment-by-moment choice to wear Christ like a garment, letting His presence define how we think, speak, and act. When we live this way, our lives become a reflection of His loving purity to a watching world.

Conclusion

God has a design for your life—and it is glorious. He calls you to offer your body as a living sacrifice in worship. God gifts us for faithful service in unity with His church. He invites us to live in obedience as a witness to His order and love. And He clothes us in Christ so that our life reflects His holiness and purity. This is what it means to live in God's will. It is not a mystery to be solved, but a design to be embraced.

**Will you surrender to His design today?
Will you present your body, your gifts, your
obedience, and your daily life to Him for His glory?**

**Let us be a people who are
*Designed for His Glory—Living in God's Will.***

Romans 12 New Living Translation Follows

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. **2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **3** Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. **4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **5** so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. **6** In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **7** If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. **8** If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. **9** Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. **10** Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. **11** Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. **12** Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. **13** When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. **15** Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! **17** Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. **18** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. **19** Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. **20** Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them

something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."

21 Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Romans 13 New Living Translation

1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. **2** So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. **3** For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. **4** The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. **5** So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. **6** Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. **7** Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority. **8** Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. **9** For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. **11** This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. **12** The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. **13** Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

New Living Translation (NLT) *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of [Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.](#), Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.