

Romans 12:3-8 – The Gospel of the Body of Christ!

Scriptures:

James 1:6-8 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:6b -

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

³ For **I** say, through the grace given to **me**, to

everyone who is among **you**, not

to think *of himself* more highly than he ought

G5252 think
arrogantly.

to think, but to think soberly, as **God** has dealt

G4993 – “to be
soberly wise v. —
to think and live
wisely in self-
control over one’s
passions and
desires.”

to each one a measure of faith.

G3358 – “measure
(quantity) n. — how
much there is or
how many there
are of something
that you can
quantify.”

First, don’t think of yourself
arrogantly, but wisely. Second,
change the way you think about
others.

Notes:

One – Rightly thinking about
ourselves!

First, Paul lets the Christ-followers in the Roman church know that he is speaking on the basis of the grace of God. Paul’s words are God’s words. This is true of every word in the Bible. This is how we ought to approach the Bible every time we open it – it is the very words of God. If you have doubts about that, you will not get from God’s Word what you need. [James 1:6-8](#)

The context of that is prayer but it applies to all areas of faith. The more doubt you have, the less you will get out of your faith.

Addressing how we think about ourselves Paul uses a negative and then a positive. First, don’t think more highly, or arrogantly about yourself. It is possible some of the Christian in Rome thought they were better or more important than other believers elsewhere in the kingdom. After all, they were in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire.

Pride is dangerous in the life of a believer. Pride is the root of all sin. God doesn’t like it. [James 4:6b](#)

There is another kind of pride that seeks to be seen as lower than other believers. I used to know a man who would regularly refer to himself as a steaming pile of animal waste in the road. I pulled him aside and told him that was what he used to be. Christ Jesus had made him into a new man. That was the last time I heard him say that.

Because pride is the root of all sin, God will actively resist those who are prideful. If you ever catch yourself thinking you are a better Christian than someone else, or that someone is less of a Christian than you, repent, because that is pride and God hates it. The cross makes all people equal before God regardless of how well or poorly they practice their faith.

The positive statement is to think soberly about yourself. The sense of ‘soberly’ is wisely. To think soberly is to think and live wisely in self-control over one’s passions and desires.

And you are to do that as well as the faith God gives allows you to. This implies that some people have less or more faith than you in this matter. That is another reason not to be proud.

Scriptures:

⁴ For as **we** have many members in one body,

Notes:

Two – Rightly thinking about other Christ-followers!

To illustrate his point, Paul uses the human body to symbolize a mystical reality – the Body of Christ.

In the same way that the human body has many different parts, arms, legs, eyes, ears, mouth, those parts are not independent of the body. They also do not serve the same purpose. The ear does not do the same thing in the body as the hand. The ear is for hearing and the hand is for grasping. The hand cannot hear and the ear cannot grasp.

but all the members do not have the same

function,

Scriptures:

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

⁵ so we, **being** many, are one body in Christ,

Notes:

How many bodies does Christ have? Just one! Every true Christ-follower is a member of the body of Christ. And just as every member of the human body has a place and a purpose, so also does every member of the Body of Christ.

This is a call to unity. [Galatians 3:28](#)

and individually members of one another.

When two or more Christ-followers gather there is unity in Christ. If there is not unity, it is because of sin. And if I am not thinking too highly of myself and trying to live wisely, I will search my own heart first for the sin that is creating disunity. This applies to every gathering of Christ-followers, churches, Bible studies, families, and marriages.

When we think of other believers, we ought to first remind ourselves that they are a member of the body of Christ just like we are. And because they are a member of the body of Christ, they have a place and a purpose just as we do. It is not less or more important, it is just different. That leads us to next thing we need to let the Holy Spirit change the way we think.

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the

G5486 -

Notes:

Three – Rightly thinking about our spiritual gifts!

[verses 6 to 8]

Gifts or spiritual gifts is a very broad topic that covers every part of a Christ-followers life, and it is what empowers the church to accomplish God's will in the world.

grace that is given to us, *let us use them:* if

The topic of spiritual gifts is much more expansive than we can cover in the time we have left. It requires a stand-alone series to fully cover it. We are going to just touch on each of these for today.

prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our

G4394 – “prophecy (ability) n. — the ability to deliver representative declarations of the mind, will, or knowledge of God.”

spiritual gifts for every sermon. If a sermon ministers to you, it is because those gifts are active.

Notice the phrase, ‘...in proportion to your faith.’ Faith is vital for any of the gifts to manifest in you. If you believe the Holy Spirit has given you gift to share with others, share with boldness. When I speak, I trust that the Holy Spirit is working and doing something that my humble words could never do.

faith;

Before getting into each one there are four things we need know. First, every Christ-followers has spiritually gifts from the Holy Spirit. No one is left out. Second, this list is not conclusive. Another good list is found in 1 Corinthians 12. Third, spiritual gifts do not define who you are in the body of Christ. Third, spiritual gifts do not limit your role in the body of Christ. Just because someone has a gift of teaching doesn't mean all they can do is teach in the body of Christ. The more your faith grows, and you learn to exercise the spiritual gifts, the more the Holy Spirit will manifest His power through you with other spiritual gifts. Some gifts persist in a believer's life while others only appear as the Holy Spirit deems them necessary. The fourth thing, spiritual gifts are supernatural. While spiritual gifts may embellish natural gifts and abilities, when spiritual gifts are operating, they are going beyond natural ability.

The first of the seven gifts Paul lists here is prophesy.

Prophecy: the ability to deliver representative declarations of the mind, will, or knowledge of God.

Some people make the mistake that prophecy is about telling the future. Prophetic utterances can tell what God has planned for the future, but more commonly, it is speaking the mind, will, and knowledge of God.

Before sharing a message with you, I pray for very specific spiritual gifts. The reason I do that is because I want this message to have a supernatural influence on you to draw you into a deeper walk with Christ. Before I study, I pray for discernment, wisdom, and knowledge. I don't know what God wants you to hear, so I ask Him to tell me. Before I share a message with you I ask for the gifts of prophecy and teaching. I pray for the manifestation of at least five

Scriptures:

⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering;

G1248 – “service
(work) n. — work
done by one
person or group
that benefits
another.”

Notes:

The next gift is ministry. We might be tempted to give this a religious definition.

Ministry: work done by one person or group that benefits another.

Another word for ministry is service. Some people are gifted by God to serve others. You can tell the ones that have this gift because they can be doing the most menial of tasks for others and you can sense the presence of God in the work. They do it with joy and a sense of what they are doing is for God, and Him alone, even though others are benefiting from it.

The next one is teaching. This is the imparting of knowledge. That is a good gift in the Children’s Ministry or in Bible Studies.

he who teaches, in teaching;

G1321 – “to teach
v. — to impart
skills or
knowledge to.”

Notes:

The next one is exhortation.

Exhortation: to earnestly support or encourage a response or action.

You see this gift operating in people who are calling people to faith in Christ or to repent or to change something about their life that is out of alignment with God’s will.

The next one is giving. This one focuses on meeting the needs of others. While this is often seen in giving financially, it can also manifest other ways. Biblically, all Christ-followers should give to the needs of others, but those exercising this gift do it with a generosity that others do not.

The sixth one is leading. If someone has been calling and is gifted to lead, they should do it with diligence eagerness.

The seventh and last one is this list mercy. This is manifested with compassion. It is seeing the weaknesses or needs of others and then trying to do something about it. This might manifest as visiting the sick or hospitalized. It is the desire to show comfort to those who need it.

This was a brief overview of the gifts. We all have them. We all have different ones or different manifestations of the same ones. On Wednesday, at the Men’s Bible Study, we discussed the importance of participating in the life of the church. All the events, groups, and services we do serve a purpose – to help each other grow in faith.

I asked the question, “How does your participation in the life of the church add to the church?” The

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 12:7 - But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...

⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who

G3870 – “to
exhort v. — to
earnestly support
or encourage a
response or
action.”

gives, with liberality; he who leads, with

G3330 – “share,
impart by
contributing to
needs.”

G572 –
generosity.

G4291 -

diligence; he who  shows mercy, with

G4710 – do one’s
best, eagerness.

G1653 –
compassion.

answer is found in the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each person in the body is given one or more (usually more than one), not for themselves but for the church. [1 Corinthians 12:7](#)

Your participation in the life of the church adds your gifts to the church. The gifts are supernatural expressions of the power of God. You may not know what your gift is or how to use but just being here allows the Holy Spirit to use you in some way for the profit of all the body of Christ. It would be better if you knew your gifts and how to use them but just being here helps. You matter! Your presence is important for the ministry of God to the body of Christ.

Thank you for being here and letting the Holy Spirit add to the body of Christ.

cheerfulness.

G2432 –
happiness.

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