

Life Together
Romans 12:3-8
September 9, 2018
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Big Idea: As we live transformed lives together, the church compellingly displays God's glory to the watching world.

I. Rethink your identity (v. 3)

Romans 12:3 ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Ways "thinking too highly of ourselves" may be expressed:

1. Self-reliance
2. Self-protection
3. Self-importance
4. Self-will

"Only he who lives by the forgiveness of his sin in Jesus Christ will rightly think little of himself."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

II. Rethink your belonging (vv. 4-5)

Romans 12:4-5 ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

A. Diversity

Romans 12:4 ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,
"Every Christian community must realize that not only do the weak need the strong, but also that the strong cannot exist without the weak. The elimination of the weak is the death of fellowship." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

B. Unity

Romans 12:5 ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

God's glory is revealed in the diversity and unity of His church.

III. Rethink your work (vv. 6-8)

Romans 12:6-8 ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

Understanding your gifts

- 1) Self-examination
- 2) Experience
- 3) Study the biblical lists (1 Cor 12:8-10, 28; Eph 4:11)
vv. 6-8 if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 4) "Use it!" (v. 6)

BENEDICTION

Philippians 1:27 ²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that...I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.