

ROMANS



Romans 12:3-8

*Humility and service
within the Church*

Review

- **Romans 1:16-11:36**
 - Introducing the need for the Gospel
 - Explaining the Gospel
 - Defending the Gospel
- **Romans 12:1-2**
 - Responding to the God of the Gospel
 - Living sacrifices
 - Renewed mind
 - Not like the world

Three Questions

- **What does the text say?**
- **What does it mean?**
- **How does it apply?**

Romans 12:3-8

³ For 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. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

Romans 12:3-8

⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

Romans 12:3-8

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.

Romans 12:3

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you...”

What does Paul mean when he writes, “by the grace given to me”?

Why does he say this?

Romans 15:14-16

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:7-8

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

1 Corinthians 3:9-10

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Romans 12:3

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you...”

**Paul sees his calling as a “grace”;
an unearned gift of God-glorifying work**

He is speaking with the authority of his post

Paul models what he’s about to talk about.

Romans 12:3

“... I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, ...”

Paul's first priority is to go after pride.

Why?

The Problem of Pride

- **It is an enemy of the gospel**
- **It is the sin that disallows growth**
- **It is the sin that keeps the Church from working properly**

Pride the Enemy of the Gospel

All in Romans

- **1:21-22 – Pride and Gentile rebellion**
- **2:17-23 – Pride and Jewish rebellion**
- **3:27 – Righteousness by faith = no boasting**
- **4:1-3 – Abraham's faith = no boasting**
- **10:1-4 – Israel's failure linked to pride**
- **11:17-20 – Gentiles warned against pride as a response to their inclusion in the Gospel**

**Pride hinders growth,
because it disallows repentance.**

Luke 18:9-14

– The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

**Pride keeps the Church from
working properly,
because it is the beating heart of
both arrogance and jealousy**

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

**What is Paul's antidote
to pride?**



Romans 12:3

“... 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 assigned.”

**Paul’s answer to pride is ...
honest self-assessment.**

The two lanes

- 1. Honesty or “soberly” about yourself as a sinner**
- 2. Honesty or “soberly” about your gifting**

1 Timothy 1:15-16

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Romans 12:4-6

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: ...

Major Points

- **Verses 4 & 6a – Everyone in the Church has different functions or “graces” that correspond to their “gift”.**
- **Verse 5 – The unity of the body of Christ**
- **Verse 6b – Whatever “gift” you have, get to work employing it.**

Romans 12:6-8

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.

Gifts listed – extra direction

- **Prophecy – in proportion to our faith**
- **Service – in service**
- **Teaching – in teaching**
- **Exhorting – in exhortation**
- **Contributing – “generously” or simply**
- **Leading – with zeal**
- **Acts of mercy – Cheerfully**

Prophecy

Two positions held within the family

- 1. Prophecy is unpacking the text of prophecy.**
 - Proportion to faith = in accordance with truth**

- 2. Prophecy is a timely word from the Lord**
 - Proportion to faith = no more or less than what is given**

1 Corinthians 14:29

Service

Service or Minister

Culturally low position

Very high position in God's economy

Mark 9:33-37, Luke 22:24-27, & John 13:1-17

Acts 6:1-6

Teaching

Not simply Sunday morning pulpit ministry

**One of the gifts required for an Elder
Titus 1:9, 1 Timothy 3:2**

Exhorting

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Contributing

What does “generously” or simply mean?

Luke 6:34-35

³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Leading

What does “Zealously” or diligently mean?

Unrelenting, focused energy

**Lead the Church unto the end of the calling.
So that you can join Paul in 2 Timothy 4:6-8,
before his death for the cause:**

**“I have fought the good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept the faith.”**

Mercy

Mercy is acts of kindness and compassion towards those in particular need.

Visiting the sick or imprisoned. Helping the needy. This kind of thing.

Do not do this begrudgingly, but cheerfully. Have the right disposition of the heart.

Everybody is called

Whatever our gifting, whatever grace it points to, we must put ourselves to work for the glory and love of God, the advancement of His kingdom, and the benefit of the Church.

Do this with sober judgment of yourself, for all are yours in Christ Jesus.

Questions

- **How are you doing with pride?**
 - What is your view of yourself?
 - What is your view of your gifting?
 - Do you get jealous of other people's gifting in the body?
- **How do you feel about other Christians that you disagree with? Do you feel unified with them?**
- **What do you have that could benefit the Church?**
- **Are you using that gifting or is it dormant?**
 - If dormant, what can you start doing to put it to work?