

# SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 25: Gifted for a Purpose: One Body, Many Members

**BIG Idea:** God has uniquely gifted every believer with grace-gifts to strengthen the Body of Christ, and when each part serves, the whole Church flourishes.

**Application:** Discover, develop, and use your God-given gifts within the local church—because the Body of Christ needs you, and you need the Body.

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## I. Not Too High, Not Too Low (v.3)

**Romans 12:3 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

**Romans 12:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> 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!

**Pride inflates, insecurity deflates, but grace gives us sober judgment.**

**Think evenly about yourself – neither too high nor too low.**

## II. One Body, Many Parts (v.4-5)

**Romans 12:4 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

**Even the smallest part makes the biggest difference.**

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-21 (NLT) *One Body with Many Parts***

<sup>12</sup> The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. <sup>15</sup>If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

<sup>18</sup>But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. <sup>19</sup>How strange a body would be if it had only one part! <sup>20</sup>Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.”

**Different by design, united by purpose.**

### **III. God’s Gifts (vv.6-8)**

**Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. <sup>8</sup>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.

**Gifts aren’t for showing off – they’re for showing Christ.**

**God’s gifts aren’t trophies – they’re tools for building His Body.**

*“We must seriously question, then, whether Paul would even entertain the idea that a person could be a member of the universal church without being a member of a local church...Paul would never imagine any believer seeking to grow in his or her faith apart from the Christian community.” ~Douglas Moo*

*“Television ‘church’ is not church, just because thousands of people watch the same service and listen to the same sermon does not make it so. Why not? I cannot fully ‘renew my mind’ without the active help of other believers. I cannot understand what Scripture teaches apart from dialogue with others who are reading that same Scripture. I cannot live the life of a disciple of Christ apart from the nurturing context of a community of believers who encourage me, pray for me, and set an example for me. I cannot discern the blind spots in my obedience to Christ without other believers to point them out to me. Here is where the attitude of arrogance that Paul rebukes in verse 3 can get in the way. We think of ourselves ‘more highly than [we] ought’ and so conclude that we do not need the help of others. More directly taught in the text, I must participate in the local church to help others grow. Whatever gift I have been given, I am under obligation to my Lord to use it to serve his people. That gift need not always, of course, be expressed only in a local church.” ~Douglas Moo*

#### **Discerning Your Gifts**

1. **Self-examination**. (Look Within)
2. **Experience**. (Step Out)
3. **Study the Biblical lists**. (Dig In)