

Signs of a healthy church

October 15, 2023

Introduction:

Text: Romans 12:3-8

Big Idea: Heart-level transformation creates a healthy environment for faith families to flourish.

1-Faith families that flourish begin with a faith-fueled _____ of _____ (3)

- The Gospel by design ought to shape our sober thinking.
- Paul starts this discussion on the gospel shaped life, interestingly, with our _____.
- How do I practice humility?
 - Remember what Jesus made possible for every believer (Philippians 2:1)
 - Set your PRIDE aside (Philippians 2:3)
 - Pride does two things:
 - Leads to _____ (do nothing from selfish ambition)
 - Leads to _____ (do nothing from conceit)

2- _____ in a flourishing faith family have learned the art of _____ with one another (4-5)

- See the big picture -- God designed **ONE BODY** to function by means of **MANY PARTS**.
- Value the unique contribution of each part.
- Understand that every part functions best while joining forces with every other part.

3-Our faith families flourishes when _____ your spiritual gift (6-8)

- It is pride that keeps us from pursuing spiritual gifts (3)
- Spiritual gifts are (usually) a specialization in a duty given to all Christians (6)
 - Prophecy - This gift is the ability to speak authoritative truth from God.
 - Serving – to “wait on tables”. This person prefers to work behind the scenes finding ways to help others.
 - Teaching - The ability to take the Word of God, explain it clearly, and apply it to the lives of the hearers.
 - Encouragers - to place courage in another. This gift has enabled many people to keep on going when they would otherwise have quit.
 - Generosity-- All Christians are commanded to give generously, but some believers have been specially gifted by God in this area.
 - Leading-- This gift enables a person to take charge of a group or a meeting and lead that group in a positive, productive direction. People with this gift should do their work eagerly, gladly, with energy and full commitment.
 - Mercy-- This gift enables the believer to reach out to others who are hurting with the love of Christ.

Truth into Action:

- #1- Humility begins with the recognition that I am proud. Can you see the residue of pride in your life?
- #2- Pride looks down at others but humility always lifts others up. Make a plan to lift another up this week.
- #3-God will always resist the proud but give grace to the humble. Remind yourself of this truth daily and ask God for humility that causes you to use your gifts wisely.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: What makes a puzzle fun to finish but so challenging to put it together?

In all honesty, are there any areas of your life in which you are prone to think more highly of yourself than you ought and need to choose humility, which is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less?

Are you serving the body of Christ with your giftings? Why or why not? How can you start to serve if you aren't doing so already?

How will you use your gifts to build up others?

What can you do to better accommodate others, realizing they may have something to contribute?

CLOSING PRAYER: Ask God to give you the heartbeat of Jesus to serve and not just be served.

Works consulted:

Romans for You, Tim Keller

Romans – Galatians, Yarbrough

Romans, Kent