

Romans 12:3-8
For the week of January 21, 2024

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

When our thinking has truly been transformed and renewed by the Spirit, it is impossible to have an exaggerated view of our own worth. Instead, we will humbly use all our gifts and strengths to minister to each other. This is Paul's concern here as he calls for *sober judgment* regarding our place in God's community. So, he begins with *the grace given to me*, probably a reference to his Damascus Road experience (Acts 9) where he encountered God's gracious call to be his apostle to the Gentiles; thus he is appealing to his apostolic authority. In this sense his *I say* is not simply a gentle request but an authoritative requirement for *every one* without exception. Since their minds have been renewed, their *judgment* must be changed as well. If they are conformed to this world (v. 2) they will *think ... more highly* of themselves than they *ought*, but if the Spirit has *transformed* them (v. 2), they will *think with sober judgment*. As Moo points out (1996:760), the meaning of *think* is not so much the intellectual process itself as the way one views something. It connotes the way the Christians consider themselves with respect to others in the church. So to think too highly is to have an overly inflated view of our own importance. To think soberly is to have the divine perspective—we are slaves to God (Rom 6:16, 18, 22) and to one another (Gal 5:13), so we place ourselves under others rather than above them.¹

Observation (vs. 3)

3. What is Paul saying in this verse?

¹ Grant R. Osborne, [Romans](#), The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 322–323.

Interpretation

4. What does this verse say regarding humility? (See also, Ps. 25:9; Micah 6:8; Eph. 4:2; Phil. 2:3-8; Col. 3:12; James 4:6-10)

5. What does “each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” mean?

Application

6. Do you struggle with pride? Why or why not?

7. How are you exercising your spiritual gift(s) in faith?

Observation (vs. 4-5)

8. What is Paul's message in these verses?

Interpretation

9. How do these verses speak of “diversity in unity”? (See also Rom 12:18, 14:19; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph 4:1-6, 16; Phil 1:27; 1 Pet 3:8)

10. What does “one body in Christ” mean?

Application

11. What is the difference between unity and conflict avoidance? Where are you and why?

Observation (vs. 6-8)

12. Try to put these verses in your own words.

Interpretation

13. Why are gifts of grace important for the Church?

14. What is Paul emphasizing in these seven gifts listed?

Application

15. What is your spiritual gifting of grace? (a useful tool is gifts.churchgrowth.org)

16. How are you using your spiritual gifting?