

11/26/23

Romans 12:1-8

“Finding Your Place in the Body of Christ”

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies to God** because of all He has done for you. Let them be **a living and holy sacrifice**—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*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. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.***

*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. If your gift is **servicing** others, serve them well. If you are a **teacher**, teach well. 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.” Romans 12:1-8 (NLT)*

I. “To Do” List from Romans 12:1-8

1. Give MYSELF completely to God. (vs 1)

*“...**give your bodies to God** because of all He has done for you. Let them be **a living and holy sacrifice**...”*

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

[Jesus] “...If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23 (NLT)

2. Don’t CONFORM to culture but be TRANSFORMED by God. (vs 2)

*“**Don’t copy** the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you** into a new person by changing the way you think.” Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

3. Don’t be PRIDEFUL. (vs 3)

*“**Don’t think you are better than you really are**. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves...”*

Romans 12:3 (NLT)

4. I am a “body part” of the Body of Christ and I need to COOPERATE with other “body parts”. (vs 4-5)

*“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.**” Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)*

- **Question: What is the “Body of Christ”? (1 Cor 12:1-31 & Eph 4:11-15)**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

- Answer
 - The Church
 - God's Family
 - Followers of Jesus

5. Use your GIFT to help the Body. (vs 6-8)

“In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.” Romans 12:6 (NLT)

II. Doing My Part in The Body of Christ

1. The Purpose for Spiritual Gifts:

“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

- EQUIP God's people to do MINISTRY
- BUILD UP The Body of Christ
- PROMOTE unity and MATURITY

2. How Can I Get Started?

- **Rom 12:6-8 mentions seven gifts. (More gifts are mentioned in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12.)**
 - Prophecy
 - Teaching
 - Leading
 - Serving
 - Encouraging
 - Kindness
 - Giving
- ASK AND DISCOVER your gifts.
- EXPERIMENT with your gifts.
- USE YOUR GIFTS to help others.

Keep the conversation going...

1. What spiritual gifts do you have? Share with the group.
2. How are you using your gifts in a way that is pleasing to God?
3. In Romans 12:1-2, Paul warns us not to conform to the pattern of this world. Where/how do you think we (Christians) may be conforming in ways we shouldn't? What should we do about that?