

Creating a Place to Heal

As we began 2021, we focused on p. 2 of our vision plan where our elders have outlined three objectives on how to create a place to heal. Let us draw attention to the action words: See; Serve; Share. This is how we create a place of healing. Romans 12.1-8 provides the scriptural blueprint. The instructions here are for ongoing life in the church. The church is to be a place of dynamic action that moves proactively and reactively ... all under the guidance and encouragement of Jesus Christ who lives in us all.

I. Romans 12.1-2 - Present Yourself to God

- A. We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice.
 - 1. Other places where Paul uses this type of language:
 - a) Romans 6.13b: *But as those who are alive from the dead, **offer** yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.*
 - b) Colossians 1.22b - *to **present** you holy, faultless, and blameless before him...*
 - 2. God wants your life. Soul, mind, body, will.
- B. In this we: refuse to be conformed to the world, and yield to God for transformation.

II. Romans 12.3-6a - Approach Service with the Right Attitude

- A. 12.3a - *I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more **highly** than he should think.*
 - 1. 12.3b - We think *sensibly* ...
 - a) Remembering the divine perspective. 1 Corinthians 4.7: *what do you have that you did not receive?*
 - b) We do not underestimate what God has given to us. False modesty is not good.
 - 2. 12.3c - *God has distributed a **measure** of faith to each one.*
 - a) 1 Corinthians 12.7: *A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the **common good**...*
 - b) Back to 12.3b: The *measure of faith* is not “saving faith.” It is the quality of faith required to use what God has give you to the fullest.
 - 3. 12.4-5: There is unity in diversity in the body.
 - a) 12.5: *in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of **one another**.*
 - b) 12.6a - What we have is by grace ...

III. 12.6b-8 - Go to Work

- A. 12.6b - **Prophecy** - those who have a gift for public speaking.
- B. 12.7a - Service - practical help offered in the name of Christ.
- C. 12.7b - **Teaching** - the action of explaining or opening up the Scriptures
- D. 12.8a - Exhorting - the work of advising; pleading; encouraging; warning; strengthening; and comforting.
- E. 12.8b - **Giving** - the work of giving our time ... and money.
- F. 12.8c - Leading - done with carefulness; constancy; and consistency.
- G. 12.8d - Showing **Mercy** - we're not prosecutors ... we extend mercy just as God has with us.

IV. Conclusion

- A. **See, serve, share**... This is how we create a place to heal.
- B. Can we help you get started? Can we help you get back on track?