The Book of Romans 12:3-8 - Sermon Notes

Passage overview. Paul calls believers to sober judgment about themselves because they belong to one another. God gives different gifts to the members of one body, and each member is called to use what God has given.

1 God has given each of us gifts for the good of the body

- Romans 12:4–6: The body has many members with different functions. In Christ, each member belongs to all the others. Our different gifts are given according to God's grace.
- Gifts and abilities are received from God and help the body function well as it serves his kingdom.
- Jeremiah 1:5: God knew Jeremiah before his birth and called him for a particular purpose. God makes people on purpose, gives them gifts, and gives them a place in the larger body.

2 Sober judgment helps us recognize and develop those gifts

- Romans 12:3: Paul warns against thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought and calls for sober judgment.
- An honest assessment avoids assuming we can do everything or that we have nothing to offer. Both views affect people who need what God has given us.
- Recognize gifts by considering what you enjoy, what you do well, where you meet needs, and what others see in you. Being present with lonely people is one example.
- Develop gifts with practice, feedback, coaching, education, and training so they can serve the body better.

3 When each part serves, the body builds God's kingdom

- Romans 12:6–8: Paul names prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy, then calls each person to use the gift given.
- The body serves on Sundays and throughout the week. Its work includes caring for other Christians, outreach, and evangelism.

- Examples: Grandmothers knit hats for foster children; local builders help people obtain homes; a dental hygienist works with the church to help children receive needed care.
- The Lord's Prayer asks for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The church uses its varied gifts in that mission.