

We Need Each Other! (Part 2)

Romans 12:3-8

Thought for the Day: One of the most important ways that we can show love for one another in the body of Christ is by discovering, developing and deploying our spiritual gift(s) in order to build up and serve one another.

We serve God by sacrificially serving one another. (Cp. John 13:34)

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you:

- Every aspect of the Christian life is by the grace of God which He has given to us!

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

- Pride, thinking more highly of ourselves that we ought to think, is never a good thing in the Christian life and is always detrimental to our relationship with God and with others in the body of Christ. (Phil. 2:3; 1 Pe. 5:5-6; Psa. 51:16-17; Isa. 66:2; James 4:6, 10; Rom. 12:16)

4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- Just as the human body is a single unit made up of many different parts and each part has its own function, so the Church is a single unit made up of many different members and each member has his/her own, God-given function.
- Each member is important and the whole body is healthy and functions properly only as each member does his/her part.
- We need each other! God did not create us nor redeem us to be Lone Rangers. It is simply not true that we can be in right relationship with God and experience all that He has for us apart from the fellowship and ministries of the church family. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

- The Holy Spirit has given every believer at least one spiritual gift that is to be used for the purpose of building up the body. (Cp. Eph. 4:16)
- "Spiritual gifts are extraordinary God-given abilities [vs. natural talents and abilities] that the Spirit gives to a believer to build up other members of the church" (*New King James Study Bible, pp. 1902, 1931*). "These gifts are not the result of intense prayer or spirituality. Instead, God simply gives everyone certain gifts so each person can strengthen the church." (*ibid, pp. 1901-02*)

If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it

is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1 Corinthians 12:1-20

- Vss. 4-6 – God, the Holy Spirit is the Source of our spiritual gifts.
- Vs. 7 – Every believer, “each one”, has at least one spiritual gift. This gift(s) is given “for the common good”, to benefit the body of believers.
- Vss. 8-10 – This list of gifts is suggestive, not exhaustive. What is your passion for service? What are you excited about? How could God use you?
- Vs. 11 – Again, the Holy Spirit is the Source; every believer has at least one; the Holy Spirit determines who gets which gift(s).
- Vss. 12-13 – The Church, though made up of many members, is one spiritual body. Every member of the church participates equally in receiving the Holy Spirit.
- Vss. 14-20 – Every member of the body is important and we need each other! Each of us needs to do our part. Vs. 18 – God places us where He wants us to be in the body; we need to seek His leading in our service.

Are you using the gifts and abilities God has given you to serve and build up the body of Christ?