

ONE BODY: UNITY IN DIVERSITY – PART 2

--ROMANS 12:1-8--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we will finish up this first section of Romans 12:1-8. So far, we have learned that living out our salvation includes several things: proper worship, proper attitude, proper relationship, and proper service. Last Sunday we just barely got into the proper service part in verses 6-8 learning that we are one body made up of many members and we each are gifted with God with and ability to help build the body and to help it function as it should.

This morning I want to look at this list of gifts that Paul gives us here, but first you must understand that this is not an exhaustive list and each of these gifts can be expressed in many different ways and God blends them in such a way that you are gifted uniquely and you need to use your gift to minister to the body and to glorify God.

I. GRACE GIFTS (Romans 12:6a)

- a. Last Sunday we ended after the first part of verse 6 where Paul tells us that we all have different _____ according to the grace given to us, and we are to use them or exercise them accordingly.
- b. As we begin looking at this list of gifts, I want to remind you that these are _____ categories.

II. PROPHECY (Romans 12:6b)

- a. Paul begins with the gift of _____. (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- b. So why did Paul include it here in this list? I believe he did because there is still another part of _____ that I believe is still in use today. (1 Corinthians 14:3; 1 Peter 4:11)
- c. The point? The gift itself is a gift of being able to _____ the Word of God, to make it relevant to a contemporary situation, to confront society.

- d. Going back to Romans 12:6, Paul writes, “...if prophecy, according to the proportion of his _____;” (Romans 12:6, NASB95) (Jude 3; Romans 12:3)
- e. What this means is when I preach the Word of God it had better _____ the work and person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. SERVICE (Romans 12:7a)

- a. Next Paul exhorts us that if our spiritual gift is _____, then we need to get busy serving. (Acts 6:1-6)
- b. This term came to be a very general term for any kind of spiritual _____.

IV. TEACHING (Romans 12:7b)

- a. The third category of gifting that Paul lists is _____, Paul writes, if you have this gift, then teach.
- b. It is a ministry of _____ someone along in a systematic understanding of the Word of God. (Matthew 28:19-20)

V. EXHORTATION (Romans 12:8a)

- a. Next Paul mentions the gift of exhortation and says if you possess this gift, then _____.
- b. The result of exhortation if heeded should always be comfort or _____.

VI. GIVING (Romans 12:8b)

- a. Next Paul mentions the gift of _____. Paul exhorts us that if we have this gift, then to do so with liberality.
- b. We are all to give, but the person with this _____ is to do so with liberality.

VII. LEADING (Romans 12:8c)

- a. Paul next exhorts those who are gifted to _____ to do so diligently.
- b. If you are gifted in this way, you are instructed to lead with _____.

VIII. MERCY (Romans 12:8d)

- a. Paul ends the list with those who have the gift of _____.
- b. This gift always sees the worst side of life, Paul exhorts that we must do it with _____. (Proverbs 14:21, 31; Luke 4:18-19)

CONCLUSION:

What a great list Paul has given us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is a simple list and we have looked at it that way. Paul was not trying to give us some detailed technical definition of each gift and all the ways that it can be expressed. He gives a general list for believers to consider as they look for how they can respond to the mercies of God bestowed upon them.

As we have looked at this list of spiritual gifts, I want to bring this into focus as I finish up this morning. You do not want to spend all your time, even with all that I have just said, looking for your gift, trying to figure it out, analyzing it. Instead let the Holy Spirit work in you. You keep your focus on the Lord Jesus and as you do you will become more like Him. As you focus on the Lord Jesus Christ, as you surrender all that you are to Him as a living and holy sacrifice, the transformation will begin with the renewing of your mind by the Spirit of God through the word which will produce in you the attitude of humility and the understanding of the unity in diversity that exists in the body of Christ and the Spirit of God begins to make the gift God has given you function with the measure of faith we have each received from God. As we allow the Spirit to guide us and we seek the Lord and walk with Him day by day we will find the gift God has given us and by the Spirit's power we will exercise our gift to the edification of the body and to the glory of God.