

ONE BODY – UNITY IN DIVERSITY

--ROMANS 12:4-6a--

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 12 begins the practical section of Romans, putting into practice the doctrine of salvation taught in chapters 1-11. So far we have learned that living the Christian life begins with proper worship, followed by a proper attitude of humility in relation to others in the church. This morning we will look at proper relationship or how we are connected with other believers, and then proper service or the use of our spiritual gifts.

I. PROPER RELATIONSHIP (Romans 12:4-5)

- a. Over the past two weeks as we have begun to look at the _____ side of our Christian life and how we live out our salvation, what does it look like to live as a Christian?
- b. Paul began this chapter by urging us to present our physical _____ as a living and holy sacrifice. (1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 3:15)
- c. Paul uses this figure of the _____ to represent the church.
- d. Paul begins by describing a physical _____ and likens it to the body of Christ.
- e. As in our physical bodies, it is also true in the body of Christ, every part, or every member is a _____.
- f. We must consider the wonder of our own physical bodies and the many _____ parts each doing its own function.

II. PROPER SERVICE (Romans 12:6-8)

- a. The key to the body functioning as it should, functioning in harmony and _____, is diversity.
- b. Before we go on looking at our spiritual giftedness, I need to say something about _____ so that you know where I stand.
- c. The sign gifts were intended for that reason, for _____ pointing to something incredibly significant. (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 13:8-9)

- d. One of the proofs that the sign gifts were for a specific _____ is found in the chronological sequence of the New Testament books. (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- e. Paul introduces this list of gifts by again emphasizing the unity in _____ that he had just pointed out in verses 4-5.
- f. These lists of gifts that we find in the New Testament I believe are general categories of _____ which can be manifested in many different ways, each unique to the believer who possesses them.

CONCLUSION:

This morning we have learned that we, who are believers by faith in Jesus Christ, believing that He died for us, suffering God's wrath against sin and paying the penalty required for sin by His death, believing that He was buried and on the third day rose from the dead proving that sin had been paid for and death had been conquered, we who are God's children by faith are all interrelated in spiritual unity. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior has designed us to each exercise the unique gift given to us so that the Body of Christ functions as it should harmoniously and in unity to the glory of God. When we do this then we become the hands, the feet, the voice of our Lord to the world. We have a common goal to bring glory to God and this is accomplished in the common life, the common ministry, the common power that we possess because of our common Head, who is the Lord Jesus, but it is accomplished by the diversity of the gifts that are bestowed upon us in countless different combinations so that in the diversity of our spiritual gifts we exhibit unity of spiritual service.