

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Romans 12:3-8

Since we will be studying Paul's instructions to the Corinthians about spiritual gifts for several more weeks, Pastor Bret will be bringing in Paul's instructions to the Romans on this same topic for this week's sermon.

❖ Day 1

Read Romans 12:3-8.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

<sup>3</sup>For ... I say to everyone among you  
[by the grace given to me]  
not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,  
but to think with sober judgment,  
each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

<sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members,  
and the members do not all have the same function,

<sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ,  
and individually members one of another.

<sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,  
let us use them:

if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

<sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving;

the one who teaches, in his teaching;

<sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation;

the one who contributes, in generosity;

the one who leads, with zeal;

the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Remember back to Pastor Bret's sermon on 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 a few weeks ago. He pointed out that the Greek word for 'gifts' comes from the root word for 'grace' and said that the spiritual gifts the Lord gives to each of His children are particular expressions of His grace to each one. What particular "grace" has been given to Paul that enables him to "say" authoritatively? (We will look at this in more detail in a few weeks, but what gift/role in 1 Corinthians 12:28 did God give to Paul?)
2. In verse 3, what did Paul say not to do?

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3. In verse 3, what did Paul say to do?
4. In your own words, what does it mean “to think with sober judgment” about something?
5. Who has assigned each one’s measure of faith and graciously given each one’s gifts?
6. How should this sober our thinking about ourselves?

❖ Day 2

Read Romans 12:3-8 again.

7. We often speak about a believer being united to Christ through salvation, but according to verse 5, what should we also understand about ourselves in relationship to the other believers in the church?
8. Conversely, if we think more highly of ourselves, how are we likely to view ourselves in relation to others in the church?
9. In verses 4-5, Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for the church as one body in Christ. In his other letters, Paul states that Christ is the *head* of His body, the church (see Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18, etc.). How should Christ’s role as head help us to think rightly about ourselves and others in the church?

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10. Do we completely give up our individual identities when we join the church? What in verses 4-6 informs your answer?
11. How might understanding that we have “gifts that differ” affect those who think they could do every ministry better than those currently serving?
12. How might understanding that we have “gifts that differ” encourage those who fear they have no contribution to make?
13. In this week’s passage Paul lists seven gifts. In last week’s passage in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 Paul listed nine gifts. Some things are in both lists and some are only in one. Do you think these lists are meant to be exhaustive? If you don’t recognize any of the listed gifts in yourself, are you off the hook from serving in the body?
14. If this list is a pattern, what implication should we draw from the commands for one gifted in service to use it in serving, a teacher in teaching, an exhorter in exhorting, etc.? (What word in verse 4 does this connect to?)
15. What pattern do you see in the attitudes that are commanded in the last three gifts in the list? How should (and should not) we serve the Lord and His church?

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16. What impact should the fact that God commands our attitudes and emotions have on us? (What do such commands indicate about our ability to control our attitudes? And what should we expect from God to enable us to obey His commands?)

❖ Day 3

Read Romans 12:3-8 again.

17. This week's passage begins with 'for', connecting it to the preceding verses. What idea or action in Romans 12:1-2 do verses 3-8 link to?
18. In verse 1, is "present your bodies as a living sacrifice" literal or figurative? (I.e., are we all supposed to go to Jerusalem and lay ourselves on the altar in the temple?)
19. How are a believer's right thinking about himself and the right use of his spiritual gifts within the church the literal living out of the figurative picture from verses 1-2?
20. If the one who thinks with sober judgment about himself is also the one who is worshipfully presenting himself as a living sacrifice to God, what does that imply about the one who thinks too highly of himself?

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21. Romans 12:1-2 are familiar verses, but have you ever paid attention to their connection to this paragraph that follows? Have you recognized the use of your spiritual gifts as a church member as one of the primary ways that you *practically* discern and live out the Lord's will? How does this connection impact you?
22. In summary, how should studying this week's passage correct the thinking of someone who thinks too highly of himself? Too lowly?
23. What actions might follow from the corrected thinking of one who thought of himself too highly? Too lowly?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would think rightly about ourselves and others and that we would serve the Lord and His church with godly attitudes.