

Roman 12:3-8 Serving in the Body of Christ

ALL IN! In assessing the benefits of a life lived for Christ, it is completely reasonable to give ourselves fully into His service. As we spend time in His word our thoughts are transformed and our minds renewed. Our thoughts—what we believe about God and ourselves are the driving force behind the decisions we make and how we live out our lives. We learn what God’s will is as we spend time with Him in the Word he’s given us.

We learn what this new life looks like lived out within a group of believers, the body of Christ, His church and how we should speak to and treat those around us. Our heavenly Father has given us resources, gifts used to bless one another and to help us grow in the New Life to which He has called each of us. Let’s discover what our heavenly Father has given each one of us to help us live out our transformed lives in Christ. We can be absolutely *secure* in God’s love for us AND have *significant purpose* in our lives!

Romans 12:3-8

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:3-8 (NKJV)

³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:3-8

As you read these verses, what first impressions do you have? Something that “jumps-out” at you?

Day 1:

Who am I? What is my identity—what makes me, me? This question is about what we think of ourselves and is often how we describe ourselves when introduced to others. When asked about ourselves, we usually answer with what we do not, not who we are.

1. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you WHO you ARE IN Christ? How does God see you?

Then look up the following and note what is said about your identity. Answer the question, “I am what?” according to these verses?

- Romans 3:24
- Romans 4:7-8
- Romans 8:1
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21
- Galatians 2:20
- Galatians 3:26-28

2. What is the common denominator in these verses?

Day 2: Self-Assessment of my Identity: Romans 12:3

1. Looking at Romans 12:3, how are we to think of ourselves? Why do you think this is mentioned?
2. Why are we to think this way about ourselves? (What has God done?)
3. Read Philippians 3:4-6. This is a list of Paul’s “credentials” according to the flesh. After considering his list, write your own list of credentials—according to the flesh.

4. Now read Philippians 3:7-9. How does Paul view his credentials in these verses? What does he consider of ultimate importance?

5. How do these verses relate to Romans 12:1?

Day 3: “All for One & One for All!” (Being Part of Christ’s Body)

Romans 12:4-5

In Romans 12:2 we are commanded to accurately think about ourselves—to know who we are IN Christ. This is our identity. Another important question to consider is “Where do I belong?” And this is answered in part by our next verses.

1. Read Romans 12:4-5. Who are you and to what do you belong?

2. What do you learn about the individual in these verses? Be specific.

3. What further information can you glean about this from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27? Read the entire passage and then make a list.

4. How are these gifts given from these verses in 1 Corinthians? Why is this important?

5. What other purpose do these gifts have according to Ephesians 4:12-13?

Day 5: The Gifts & Using Them, Romans 12:6b-8

Finally! The Gifts given! God has something SIGNIFICANT to *each person* in the body of Christ. You are needed and a necessary part of the body. You were created in Christ Jesus for good works. God has had a plan for you from the very beginning! (Ephesians 2:10)

1. Make a list of the verses from Romans 6b-8 and note any additional instructions regarding each gift.

Some of these gifts seem mysterious or are not well understood. Let us do a little further study into them.

2. What additional information can be gleaned regarding prophecy from 1 Corinthians 14.
 - Verse 1:

 - Verses 3-4:

- Acts 2:17-18
 - Examples of
 - i. Acts 13:1-3
 - ii. Acts 15:32
 - iii. Acts 21:8-11
3. Exhortation is a sophisticated word. What is it and how is it seen in the scriptures?
- Define Exhortation:
 - What can be gleaned regarding exhortation from the following passage in 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8
 - And from Hebrews 12:5-6

Pray about what you have learned this week! Who are you in Christ? God has called you to be His own, loved beyond measure daughter. Ask Him to reveal to you the spiritual gift he has given to you by His grace to use to encourage and use as part of His body.

He has NOT given you a spirit of fear! The Spirit he's given you is powerful, overflowing with His love and rightly assesses (is of sound mind). 1 Timothy 1:7 paraphrase.