



Members of the Same Body Romans 12:3-8

Something to Start Us Off

- Have you ever been part of a team or group where everyone knew their role and used their strengths well? What made it work (or not work)?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 12:3-8 slowly and mark anything that stands out. (Feel free to also consult your preferred translation.)

- 12:3 *not to think ... more highly ... think with sober judgment*
- 12:5 *members of one another*
- 12:6 *having gifts that differ ... let us use them*

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* After calling us to total surrender as living sacrifices (vv. 1-2), Paul immediately addresses pride and self-centeredness. Right thinking about ourselves flows from God's grace and leads to a healthy body.

* Paul's teaching here fits into a broader New Testament pattern. Compare this with 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-16, and 1 Peter 4:7-11. Notice how each passage stresses that gifts are given by grace for the benefit of the whole church, not for individual glory.

Discussion Questions:

- Why does Paul begin this section with a strong warning about how we think of ourselves (v. 3)? How does this connect to the "therefore" of verses 1-2?
- What does it mean to "think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned"? How does this protect the church?
- Paul compares the church to a human body (vv. 4-5). What does this image teach us about unity and diversity in the body of Christ?
- Look at the list of gifts in verses 6-8. Which ones stand out to you? How can we encourage one another to use our gifts "according to the grace given to us"?
- What would it look like practically in any church/small group for everyone to use their gifts with the right attitude (generosity, zeal, cheerfulness, etc.)?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 12:3 this week. Ask God to help you think of yourself with sober judgment and to use whatever gifts He has given you for the good of the body. Who is one person in your church whose gifts you can encourage this week?