

Intro: Context - 12:1-2

XLIV. The Believer's Spiritual Gifts - Pt 1

A. The reason for presenting your body as a living sacrifice

1. The Work of the Lord is in the hands of the body of Christ

a. The Great Commission - Mt 28:19-20

b. Make Disciples

i. teaching them to observe

ii. baptizing

- identification w/ Christ's death, burial resurrection

- proclamation of new person/ accountability

2. How do we, in unredeemed bodies, with the law of sin still in us serve a Holy God - Ro 7:14-25; Ga 5:17

a. fully supplied and enabled spiritually by the redeemer - 2 Pe 1:2-4

i. The Power of the Spirit - Ro 8:10-14

ii. Access to

- all that is include in salvation - Ro 5:1-5; Eph 2:14-22; 3:8-13

- grace to help in time of need (always) - Heb 4:16

b. w/o him we can do nothing - Jo 15:1-5

c. Through Him, I can do all things - Phil 4:13

3. Future Judgment based on that which was built on the foundation of Christ - 1 Co 3:10-15; done for the glory of God

B. Use with Humility - vs 3

1. For I say, through the grace given to me

a. For - transition from spiritual service to spiritual dedication

b. the grace given to me - Ro 1:1-5; 15:15; 1 Co 3:10; Gal 2:9; Eph 4:7

i. the basis of everything that has eternal value

- just as we are saved by His grace alone

- we can only serve him by that same grace

ii. His appeal is based indirectly on his apostolic rank

- he received his apostleship only by grace

- he constantly makes reference to his not deserving - Eph 3:7-8; 1 Ti 1:12-14

2. to everyone, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think

a. the foundational virtue

b. no matter how theologically sound, well grounded one may be, God's grace and His gifts will not operate so that our lives can be spiritually productive until self is denied - Mt 16:24; Jo 15:4-5,8

c. *huperphroneo* - esteem oneself overmuch, be vain or arrogant, think more highly.

d. one is not to overvalue his abilities, gifting, worth, but make an accurate estimate - 1 Co 4:6-7; Ga 6:3; 1 Tim 1:12-16;

3. but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

a. *sophroneo* - to be of sound mind, sane, moderate, be in right mind, be sober (minded), soberly.

i. to recognize that in ourselves, from our fleshly humanness, can come nothing of eternal value

ii. In Christ, we can be used to the glory of God through the gifts that the Spirit bestowed on us

iii. low self esteem/ high self esteem

b. as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

i. *merizo* - to part, to apportion, bestow, share, to disunite, differ, deal, be difference between, distribute, divide, give participle - 1 Co 12:11

ii. *metron* - a measure, a limited portion (degree):-- measure. - 1 Pe 4:10-11

c. Wrong attitudes about gifts

i. Using it boastfully - 1 Co 12:21

ii. False humility - 1 Co 12:11-12,19

iii. Claiming gifts we do not have - 1 Co 12:29-30

iv. Failing to use a gift out of jealousy, resentment, or shame - 1 Co 12:15-16

v. Failing to use a gift at all - vs 6-8

B. Unity in Diversity - vs 4-5

1. one body in Christ - 1Co 12:12

a. mentioned in both verses, representing unity

b. the Church is a spiritual organism

2. many members

a. but all the members do not have the same function

i. representing diversity

ii. *praxis* - practice, an act; a function:--deed, office, work.

- connotes something that is ordinarily done or practiced

- not always referring to offices such as apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, or deacon

b. each member has gifts which serve their different purposes in the body

i. not all have offices

ii. whether obvious and important or hidden and unnoticed, every part is critical - Eph 4:16

3. "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" by Dr. Paul Brand - Pg 164-166