

## Don't Think So Highly of Yourself Romans 12:3-5

Romans 12:3–5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

### Introduction:

Humility is one of the most needed yet difficult and easily evasive virtues of the Christian life. And the opposite is also true. Pride is the easiest and most accessible and destructive of all attitudes in the Christian life.

Nothing can be as beautiful as a church filled with people living in true humility, while nothing can be so ugly as a church filled with prideful people.

Our sinful nature seeks self-centeredness and pride, while it resist true humility and selflessness.

Did you know this useless fact.....

Around 92 million selfies are snapped every day in the world, involving a huge amount of posturing. According to a study published in Social Psychological and Personality Science, we spend, on average, a total of seven minutes a day capturing selfies.

Some are dying to take a selfie.

From January 2008 to July 2021 it was estimated that there were 379 people who died in selfie related accidents.

Did you know that  
Evil entered the unstained Creation of by the doors  
way of Pride.

Paul told Timothy that men who should serve in leadership as pastors and elders, should not be novices. (new believers)

Why?

1 Timothy 3:6 (NKJV)

6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

Pride is what makes a man think more highly of himself than he ought to think. It is a self exaltation based on a faulty perspective and reasoning.

Before Lucifer, fell from heaven, he fell in his heart. He was created with stupendous beauty and amazing power and his own reflection of the abilities that God gave him led him to a prideful, self exalting mind.

Isaiah 14:12–15 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> “How you are fallen from heaven,

O Lucifer, son of the morning!

*How* you are cut down to the ground,

You who weakened the nations!

<sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.’

<sup>15</sup> Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.

**God Hates Pride**

- God hates pride; we must learn to hate what God hates and to love what God loves. How much do you hate pride?
- Proverbs 8:13 “To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.”
- Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”
- Proverbs 16:5 “The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.”
- Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”
- God is not out to hurt your pride he is out to kill your pride.

### **Pride is Serious**

- God is opposed to the proud. You don't want God as your opponent.
- James 4:6 “But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.””
- 1 Peter 5:5 “Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one

another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

- Luke 14:11 “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.””
- The way up is the way down. Completely the opposite of the world. Humble yourself and you will be exalted; exalt yourself and you will be humbled.

### **Humility is Critical to Receiving God’s Grace**

- Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”
- Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honour.”
- Proverbs 18:12 “Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honour.”
- Proverbs 29:23 “A man’s pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honour.”
- Isaiah 57:15 “For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

- 1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”
- Isaiah 23:9 “The LORD Almighty planned it, to bring low the pride of all glory and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.”
- God resists the proud in order to show them their need of him. This results in his glory.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 “To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

## Lesson

I. Thinking Rightly about your giftedness in the Body of Christ

II. Thinking Rightly about your place in the Body of Christ.

I. Thinking Rightly about your giftedness in the Body of Christ

The last 3 sermons in Romans we have spent the necessary time laying the foundation for the rest of the book. The Practical application of the first 11 chapters of Romans starts with a call to complete, unreserved devotion to God in spiritual Service.

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

**12** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

This monumental and expected devotion to God in service to him will only occur in the context of a life not being conformed to the world want the way we are thinking.

## Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Just an example of what Paul is going to require of us as believers requires a transformed mind. It is the opposite of the world and how it thinks

## Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> .....everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think,....

## Romans 12:9–21 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; <sup>11</sup> not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; <sup>13</sup> distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.



<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore

*“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;  
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his  
head.”*

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 13:1 (NKJV)

**13** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

### Romans 13:6–7 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

### Romans 15:1–3 (NKJV)

**15** We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "*The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.*"

All of these commandments required a completely devoted servant of Christ who is in humble reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit to kill the deeds of the flesh, while submitting to clear commandment'd of God in His word.

***And to understand how we can to this is rooted in humility.***

**Humility in our origination**

**Humility in our obligation**

**Humility in our operation.**

## **1. Humility in our origination — Salvation**

Now this is not what Paul is talking about in v. 3 where he says,

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me,

The grace here is the grace of apostleship and ministry which we will discuss in a soon. But what I am talking about is that Paul has already spent the first 11 chapters talking about. It is the marvelous and undeserved grace that brought you salvation.

This is foundational to verse 1-2 to be a living sacrifice.

And it is foundational to v 3 and following to being a devoted servant.

If you are devoid of the first 11 chapters of Romans, the rest will make no sense.

A person that is truly saved never enters into this salvation with a prideful heart. No one ever carries their bags of self-righteousness or religious

achievement into the gate that leads to life. It is as narrow gate for a reason. It is only the poor in spirit who make it. It is the one who has nothing of offer but only the thy cross do they cling that are saved. Luke 18:9–27 (NKJV)

### ***Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector***

<sup>9</sup> Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ <sup>13</sup> And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

### ***Christ Blesses the Children***

<sup>15</sup> Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they

rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

<sup>17</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

### ***Rich Young Ruler***

<sup>18</sup> Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

<sup>21</sup> And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

<sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

<sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

<sup>24</sup> And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is

easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

<sup>26</sup> And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup> But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

There is no such things as a prideful convert to christianity. No such thing as self centered salvation. Men and women and children that are saved are at the moment of salvation truly humble people. They may and will struggle at times with humility the rest of their life. But at that moment when God convicts a sinner of his need for Christ and sinfulness of his sin and the unworthiness of forgiveness and justice of his punishment,...there is no purer moment of salvation that at that moment. True Humility has crushed every stone of Pride. The foundations of self righteousness are obliterated, and humility rules the moment.

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NKJV)

**2** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now

works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### Philippians 3:3–9 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

<sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

**1. Humility in our origination —our salvation of our soul—-leads to.....**

**2. Humility in our obligation —our sacrifice of self**

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

**12** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living



sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* reasonable service.

The presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice is a humble response to the Mercies of God.

NOT getting what we do deserve.

Because God did not send us to Hell, although he would have been right in doing so.

Because God allowed us to stay alive to be saved, a thought he would not have been wrong in killing us for our sin.

Because God was merciful to extend grace to us instead of the justice that we deserve.

Because he was and is merciful to us... We should be willing to sacrifice all for Him

**Humility in our origination** —-salvation of our soul—leads to—

**Humility in our obligation** —sacrifice of self —-leads to—

**Humility in our operation.** —service to the saints.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me,

Paul recognized first of all, that his position of authority as an apostle is by God's Grace.

Romans 1:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

Romans 15:15–16 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on *some* points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, <sup>16</sup> that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

Galatians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), <sup>9</sup> and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that *we should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power

### Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

### 1 Timothy 1:12–16 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, <sup>13</sup> although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup> And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

<sup>16</sup> However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Paul was amazed that God would take a former blasphemer and murderer who fought with every fiber of his being against the cause of Christ, and save him, but even more amazement that Christ

would take that same sinner saved by Grace and make him a minister of Gospel he once opposed.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

*For ... I say* leads into a series of directives that spell out the implications of what Paul has just said

Morris, L. (1988). [\*The Epistle to the Romans\*](#) (p. 437). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

So Paul tells us how we should view our service to God and our service to the Body of Christ, His church.

**1. We should view it Soberly**

**2. We should view it Sovereignly**

**1. We should view it Soberly**

not to think *of himself* more highly

**ὑπερφρονέω** *hyperphronéō*; contracted *hyperphronō*, fut. *hyperphronésō*, from *hupér* (5228), above, over, and *phronéō* (5426), to think. To think highly, consider something of great importance.

**Syn.:** *huperaíromai* (5229), to become haughty, exalt oneself; *epaíromai* (1869), to exalt oneself; *hyperupsóō* (5251), to highly exalt; *phusióōmai* (5448), to be proud, puffed up; *tuphóō* (5187), to lift, be lifted up with pride; *hupsēlophronéō* (5309), high-minded.

**Ant.:** *tapeinóō* (5013), to humble, be humble (mid.); *hupostéllō*

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

**ὑπερφρονέω:** to have an unwarranted pride in oneself or in one's accomplishments—'to be conceited, to be arrogant, to be proud, to think highly of oneself.' μὴ ὑπερφρονεῖν παρ' ὃ δεῖ φρονεῖν 'do not think of yourselves more highly than you ought to think' or 'do not have an exaggerated opinion of your importance' Ro 12:3.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 764). United Bible Societies.

This is the kind of person that is hero in all of his stories.

He has an unhealthy exalted view of himself and his abilities

(the verb occurs here only in the New Testament) conveys the idea of thinking of oneself *more highly than one ought*. This is a natural human tendency. As Denney puts it, “To himself, every man is in a sense the most important person in the world, and it always needs much grace to see what other people are, and to keep a sense of moral proportion

Morris, L. (1988). [\*The Epistle to the Romans\*](#) (p. 437). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

Actually he says something a little stronger; it is more highly than one *must* (δεῖ). Paul sees humility not merely as desirable but as necessary for the true Christian. Shedd points out that “The pagan ethic is vitiated, even in its best form as seen in the Platonic philosophy, and still more in the Stoic, by egotism, or the disposition ὑπερφρονεῖν παρ’ ὃ δεῖ φρονεῖν

Morris, L. (1988). [\*The Epistle to the Romans\*](#). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

**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.

It is interesting that Paul uses a form of the verb ***phronéō*** **4 times in this one verse.**

*Having left verse 2, where he stresses the transformation of the mind, he immediately indicates how you should think....*

*He says, “don’t think higher about yourself than you ought to think, but think right thinking about your self.*

**σωφρονέω *sōphronéō***; contracted *sōphronṓ*, fut. *sōphronésō*, from *sōphrōn* (4998), sober–minded. To be of sound mind, intrans. To be sane, in one’s right mind (Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35; 2 Cor. 5:13). By implication to be sober–minded, to think and act soberly, discreetly, to use sound judgment and moderation, to be self–disciplined (Rom. 12:3; Titus 2:6; 1 Pet. 4:7).

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.



**σωφρονέω<sup>b</sup>; σωφρονισμός<sup>a</sup>, οὐ *m*; σωφροσύνη<sup>a</sup>,  
ης *f*: to have understanding about practical matters  
and thus be able to act sensibly— ‘to have sound  
judgment, to be sensible, to use good sense, sound  
judgment.’**

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 383). United Bible Societies.

Titus 2:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Likewise, exhort the young men to be **sober-minded**,

1 Peter 4:7–11 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be **serious** and watchful in your prayers. <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “*love will cover a multitude of sins.*” <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Now, at this point, you may think, well how am I to think rightly about myself and my service to Christ.

First

### **1. Not with false humility.**

Saying I'm a worm and useless all the time is not what Paul is driving home.

In this context, one can manifest a pride in their lowly estate.

You can say and believe that you are a worthless and incapable of being any benefit to the Body of Christ.

### **2. Not the depreciation of one's position or giftedness in the Body.**

To often, we incorrectly believe that because we are not a preacher, or teacher or missionary, or deacon or elder that our ministry is not as important.

This is a wrong assessment of the function of the members of the body of Christ. Every member is important and every gift given to the member of the body is important.

Romans 12:4–8 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:

#### 1 Corinthians 12:14–22 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.  
<sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?  
<sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an

eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? <sup>18</sup> But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. <sup>19</sup> And if they were all one member, where *would* the body *be*?

<sup>20</sup> But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

**3. Not a lack of dependance on God’s grace and strength to carry out our service.**

**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.**

**1. We should view it Soberly**

## 2. We should view it Sovereignly

**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.**

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

We do not have a choice in this. We don't determine this and we can't seek it. It is Determined by God and God alone.

The church is HIS body, that he died for, that He purchased.

And just as he sovereignly chose you out of billions of sinners to save solely based on his pleasure, He also places you with your abilities, gifts and talents in the body as He pleases.

It is not based on you position or prestige.

It is not based on you wealth or your wisdom

It is not based on you physically appearance or your physical disability.

It is a sovereign choice that God has made to make the body of Christ bring the most glory to himself.

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

## Psalm 128:1–6 (NKJV)

- 1 Blessed *is* every one who fears the Lord,  
Who walks in His ways.
- 2 When you eat the labor of your hands,  
You *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well  
with you.
- 3 Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,  
Your children like olive plants  
All around your table.
- 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
Who fears the Lord.
- 5 The Lord bless you out of Zion,  
And may you see the good of Jerusalem  
All the days of your life.
- 6 Yes, may you see your children's children.  
Peace *be* upon Israel!

## Ephesians 6:23–24 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.