

*“Always With Grace”*  
*Romans 12:3-8*

**Introduction:**

1. Please Open Your Bibles Again With Me This Morning:
  - To Romans 12 - Where - Last Sunday:
    - We Started Looking At:
      - Those Very Familiar Verses:
        - About Christian Commitment:
          - Romans 12:1-2!
2. And So - To Begin This Morning:
  - I Would Like For Us To Revisit & Reread:
    - Those Verses - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. / And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God!”
      - Is This How You Sought To Live Your Life Last Week?
  - Did You Hear The Call Of Paul:
    - To **Commit** Yourself To Christ?
      - Did You Present Yourself:
        - Each Day - To The Lord:
          - As A “Living Sacrifice, Holy, Acceptable Unto God?”
  - And - Did You Heed The Commands Of Paul:
    - **In** Your Commitment To Christ?
      - So That You Were Not “Conformed To This World” - But Instead:
        - Were “Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind?”
    - If Not - Recommit Yourself Today:
      - By Remembering & Reflecting On:
        - “The Mercies Of God!”
3. Well - The Verses We Come To This Morning:
  - Are Closely Connected To:
    - The Call Of Paul (Vs. 1) & The Commands Of Paul (Vs. 2):
      - For Commitment To Christ!
    - Because - In The Counsel Of Paul:
      - Which We Find Next In 12:3-8:
    - We See What Is:
      - The Evidence & Expression Of:
        - The Renewed Mind & Transformed Life:
          - Of A Christian Committed To Jesus Christ!
  - Lets Read Those Verses Together!
    - 12:3-8 - “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. / For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: / So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. / Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; / Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; / Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness!”
4. These Verses Teach Us:
  - That Renewed Minds:
    - That Are Focused On The “Mercies Of God!”
      - Will Transform Us More & More:
        - Into People Of Grace!
          - Grace Like That Of:
            - Christ’s Himself!
  - That Is - Grace & Graciousness:
    - Will Be The Very Atmosphere & Climate:
      - Of Our Lives As Christians & As A Church!
        - **IE:** Kind Of Like The Humid Days That We’ve Had Lately! So Humid, That It You Can

Actually See The Water Vapor Hang Thickly In The Air! Even To The Point That You Feel Like You Are Swimming Even As You Are Walking!

- As Christians - The More We Dwell On & Dwell In:
  - The Mercies & Grace Of The Lord:
    - The More They Will Transform Us:
      - Into People Of Grace!

5. And In These Verses:

- We See Three Ways:
  - In Which That Atmosphere Of Grace:
    - Will Be Evident In Our Lives!
      - Three Ways:
        - In Our Thoughts!
        - In Our Testimony! And:
        - In Our Treatment:
          - Of Others!
- And - As We Go Through These Verses:
  - Ask Yourself:
    - Has The Grace Of God:
      - Transformed You:
        - Into A Person Of Grace? And:
    - Has The Grace Of God:
      - Transformed Us:
        - Into A Church Of Grace?
          - Not Just In Name! But In Nature!

\* So - First - The Grace Of God Ought To Transform Our Thoughts Into:

**1. *Thoughts Of Grace!***

- And We Find This In 12:3 - Where Paul Again:
  - After Issuing:
    - His Call & His Commands For Christian Commitment!
      - He Offers Further Counsel For Our Commitment!
    - “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith!”
  - This Verse Describes:
    - What Our Attitude Is To Be:
      - Toward Each Other:
        - Within The Church!
    - And That Attitude Is To Be:
      - Humility:
        - Which Is An Attitude Of Grace!
  - So - What Kind Of Thinking:
    - Should Their Be In:
      - Our Renewed Minds? First - Know This!
- Proud Thinking:
  - Is Not Renewed Thinking!
    - Which Is Why We Are Told:
      - “Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think!”
- Once Again:
  - Paul Deals With The Issue Of:
    - Pride Within The Church!
  - In Chapter 11:
    - Paul Dealt With Pride:
      - That Was Directed:
        - Outside The Church!
    - But Here - Paul Is Dealing With Pride:
      - That May Be Directed:
        - Inside The Church!
  - And Yet - A Lot Of Times:

- External Pride Is Just A Symptom: -

Internal Pride!

- Well This Kind Of Thinking - Proud Thinking:
  - Is Not Renewed Thinking - And:
    - Is Not Gracious Thinking!
      - “Do Not Think Of Yourself More Highly Than You Ought To Think!” - Instead - There Is To Be:
- Proper Thinking!
  - Which **Is** Renewed & Gracious Thinking!
    - Which Is Why We Are Then Told:
      - 12:3b - “To think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith!”
    - So - When You Dwell On The Grace Of God:
      - It Will Renew & Transform Your Mind:
        - So That There Will Be:
  - Proper Thinking About Yourself!
    - “Think Soberly” - Paul Says! Or:
      - “Think The Right Thoughts” About Yourself!
        - The Word Translated “Soberly” Was Often Used To Describe Someone:
          - Who Was In His “Right Mind!” Like The Demon Possessed Man Who Was Delivered By Jesus In The Gospels!
  - So - When You Think More Highly:
    - About Yourself - Than You Ought To Think:
      - In A Sense - You Are:
        - “Out Of Your Mind!”
      - Because - As Charles Hodge Once Wrote:
        - “A Right Estimate Can Never Be Other Than A Very Humble One, Since What Ever There Is Of Good In Us Is Not Of Ourselves, But Of God!”
- Instead - You Need To Think:
  - Not Only About Yourself - But Others:
    - Within The Church:
      - “According as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith!”
  - This Is A Challenging Phrase:
    - For Us To Understand Completely!
      - But - I Think It Will Help Us To Read That Word “Measure” As “Portion!”
  - You See - To Think Right About Yourself:
    - You Need To Remember That:
      - It Is By God’s Grace That:
        - You Or Anyone Is Saved:
          - Through Faith!
    - And - In A Sense:
      - We Have All Have The Same Faith:
        - Though It Might Be Weaker Or Stronger At Times!
  - But - Within This Common Faith:
    - That All True Christians Possess:
      - “God Hath Dealt To Every Man (A) Special Measure / Portion From That Common Faith!”
  - As We Go Through These Verses:
    - I Think The Context Makes It Clear:
      - That This Measure / Portion:
        - Are Special Gifts Given By God To His People:
          - To Use For His People!
    - **IE:** Its Kind Of Like When Joseph Finally Met With All Of His Brothers - And Gave Each Of Them A Portion Of Food And Clothing - But To His Brother Benjamin - He Gave Five Times The Portion Of Food & Five Times The Portion Of Raiment - Out Of Nothing But His Love & Grace For His Brother!
- And So It Is With Us!
  - The Grace Of God Ought To Transform:
    - Our Thoughts Into Thoughts Of Grace!
      - About Ourselves & About Others:

- In Humility - Like That Of Christ!
  - As Paul Wrote In Philippians 2:5-8:
    - “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: / Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: / But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: / And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!”
  - When Your Mind Is Focused On:
    - The Humility Of Christ:
      - It Will Transform Your Thoughts:
        - Into Thoughts Of Grace!
          - About Yourself & About Others!
  - Paul Himself Is A Great Example Of This!
    - Because - How Does He Start Of 12:3?
      - “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you!”
  - Though God Had Given Him Authority:
    - To Call & Command & Counsel Us:
      - To Be Committed To Christ:
        - Yet - He Recognized That Even His Authority As An Apostle:
          - Was **His** “Measure Of Faith” That Was Given To Him Freely By God:
            - And His Grace!
- So - Let The Grace of God:
  - Transform Your Thoughts:
    - Into Thoughts Of Humility And Grace:
      - Toward Others! Because:
        - Then We See:

\* Second - That The Grace Of God Ought To Transform Our Testimony Into:

## 2. ***Testimonies Of Grace!***

- Which Is What We Find Next In:
  - 12:4-5 - Were Paul Brings Up Another Analogy:
    - To Describe What Christians & Churches:
      - ***Are*** Like & ***Are To Be*** Like!
    - “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: / So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another!”
  - These Verses Describe:
    - What Our Association Is To Be Like:
      - As A Church!
    - And That Association Is:
      - An Association Of Grace!
  - And So - In 12:4 - Paul Describes:
- The Physical Body!
  - Its Unity!
    - As “One Body!”
  - Its Diversity!
    - Because Of Its “Many Members!”
  - And Its Variety Of Functions!
    - Since “All Members Have Not The Same Office!”
  - In 1 Corinthians 12 - Paul Brings More Detail:
    - Into This Analogy - To Show The Importance:
      - Of Each Individual Member / Part:
        - Of Our Bodies!
    - 1 Corinthians 12:14-22 - “For the body is not one member, but many. / If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? / And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? / If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? / But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. / And if they were all one member, where were the body? / But now are they many members, yet but one body. / And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the

head to the feet, I have no need of you. / Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary!”

- And So - In Both 1 Corinthians 12 & Romans 12:
  - Our Physical Bodies:
    - Are A Good Illustration Of:
- The Spiritual Body!
  - Which Is The Body Of Christ – The Church!
    - Which Is Why Paul Adds:
      - In 12:5 - “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another!”
    - So - Just Like In Your Physical Body:
      - In Our Spiritual Body:
        - Every Member / Every Individual Christian Has:
  - A Special Role:
    - Within The Body!
      - We Are “Many” - Paul Writes!
    - Within The Body Of Christ:
      - There Are “Many” Different People:
        - With Different Backgrounds!
        - With Different Strengths!
        - With Different Weaknesses!
        - With Different Temperaments!
        - With Different Conditions!
    - But Each One Of The “Many” Has:
      - A Special & A Distinct Role:
        - Within The Church!
    - And That Makes Each Person:
      - Special To The Church!
        - Especially Because Each Member Also Has:
  - A Special Relationship:
    - With The Head Of The Body:
      - Jesus Christ!
        - Because - 12:5 - “We, Being Many, Are One Body In Christ!”
    - This Means That:
      - Anyone Who Is Connected To Jesus:
        - By Faith - Is Connected To:
          - His Body!
    - And Now:
      - Every Believer / Every Member:
        - Has This In Common!
          - A Union With & In Christ!
    - **IE:** This Is Greater Than Anything Else That Might Bring People Together! Whenever You Travel Somewhere - You Might Look For People With Whom You Have Something In Common! In Indiana, Sometimes See Bronco Gear! In Italy, English! But - In Christ - Something Greater! At John Wesley’s Chapel - Met An English Woman - Sister In Christ - Instant Connection!
      - This Special Relationship:
        - “In Christ” - Makes Each Person:
          - Significant Within The Church!
      - But - Even More - Each Member Also Has:
  - A Special Responsibility:
    - To The Body!
      - Because - 12:4 - “Every One” Of Us Are “Members One Of Another!”
    - Just Like There Is An Organic Unity:
      - In Our Physical Bodies - There Is Also:
        - An Organic Unity:
          - In The Body Of Christ!
    - This Is Why In 1 Corinthians 12:25-26:
      - Paul Also Wrote - “That the members should have the same care one for another. / And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all

the members rejoice with it!”

- And That Is Why:
  - The Grace Of God Ought To Transform:
    - Our Testimony As Christians - Into:
      - A Testimony Of Grace!
  - Even Though Jesus Did Not Use:
    - The Analogy Of The Body Himself:
      - To Describe His Relationship:
        - With His Disciples!
    - He Did Use Some Other Analogies:
      - Like The One In John 15:5:
        - “I Am The Vine, Ye Are The Branches!”
      - And - Like The One In John 10:14:
        - “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine!”
    - Now - Who Were Some Of Those Branches?
      - And - Who Were Some Of Those Sheep?
  - Two Of Them:
    - Known As The “Sons Of Thunder” - Seemed To Forget All That Jesus Had Taught Them - And Wanted To “Exercise Lordship” Over Their Brethren:
      - Instead Of Serving Them!
  - Another One Of Them:
    - Refused To Believe That Jesus Had Risen From The Dead:
      - Until He Had Seen Him With His Own Eyes & Felt Him With His Own Hands!
  - And - Another One Of Them:
    - Denied That He Even Knew Jesus:
      - Three Times - On The Very Day:
        - That Jesus Was Crucified & Shed His Blood For Him!
  - And Yet - In Each Case - Our Lord Jesus Christ:
    - Was Not Ashamed:
      - To Identify These Disciples:
        - As His Own Branches & His Own Sheep!
      - And - As Hebrews 2:11 Tells Us:
        - “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren!”
  - Now - That’s Grace!
    - Now - Add To Those Disciples:
      - ***Yourself!*** And Everyone Else:
        - “That Nameth The Name Of Christ!”
        - As Imperfect As We Are!
  - Yet - This Body - Is His Body!
    - And His Body - Is Your Body!
      - And These Brothers & Sisters:
        - Are Your Family!
- So - Let The Grace Of Christ:
  - Transform Your Testimony:
    - Into A Testimony Of Honor & Grace:
      - For The Body Of Christ!
        - “Love The Brotherhood!” (1 Peter 2:17)
  - Because Part Of The Responsibility:
    - We Now Have Toward Each Other:
      - Is To Serve Each Other:
        - Which Is What We Find Next In 12:6-8!

\* Where We See That The Grace Of God Ought To Transform Our Treatment Of Each Other Into:

**3. *Treatment Of Grace!***

- 12:6-8 - “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; / Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; / Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness!”

- These Verses Describe:
    - What Our Actions Are To Be Like:
      - As Christians & As A Church!
    - Our Actions Are To Be:
      - Acts Of Grace!
  - And - Every One Of Us Is To Act:
    - By Using The Special Gift:
      - That Has Been Given To Us:
        - From The Lord!
        - Your Spiritual Gift!
  - And - In These Verses:
    - Seven Spiritual Gifts:
      - Are Highlighted By The Apostle Paul!
    - Now - There Are Other Lists:
      - As In 1 Corinthians 12 & Ephesians 4:
        - So - This Is Not A Comprehensive List Of Spiritual Gifts!
  - But - Paul's Point Is This:
    - Whatever Gift You've Been Given:
      - By God's Grace:
        - You Need To Actively Use It:
          - For The Benefit Of The Body Of Christ!
          - So Paul Says:
- If You've Been Given:
- The Spiritual Gift Of Prophecy:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Fluency!
  - The Gift Of Prophecy Refers To:
    - "The Communication Of Revealed Truth That Will Both Convict And Build Up The Hearers!"  
(Everett J. Harrison)
  - So - 12:6b - "Whether Prophecy, Let Us Prophecy According To The Proportion Of Faith!"
    - Or - The "Analogy Of Faith!"
      - Which Means - Everything You Say:
        - Needs To "Match Up" With Everything Else God Has Said!
    - Your Words Must Always Be:
      - Between The "Book-Ends" Of God's Revealed Word!
        - So - You Need To Know God's Word! Be Fluent In It!
  - Because - It Is The "Sincere Milk" Of God's Word:
    - That God's People Need:
      - In Order To Grow!
        - Then - Paul Says:
- If You've Been Given:
- The Spiritual Gift Of Ministry:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Fulness!
  - The Gift Of Ministry Likely Refers To:
    - Administration Of The Affairs Of The Church - Especially Through The Office Of Deacon!
  - So - 12:7a - "Or Ministry, Let Us Wait On Our Ministering!"
    - Like Paul Told Timothy About Deacons:
      - 1 Timothy 3:13 - "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree!"
  - In Other Words:
    - Do Your Best:
      - When You Serve!
        - And Give It Your All!
    - As We Find In 1 Corinthians 16:15:
      - Addict Yourself "To The Ministry Of The Saints!" - Then - Paul Adds:
- If You've Been Given:
- The Spiritual Gift Of Teaching:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Faithfulness!
  - Because - The Gift Of Teaching:
    - Is The Ministry Of:

- Explaining & Expounding The Truth Of God's Word To Those God Gives You The Opportunity!
- So - 12:7b - "Or He That Teacheth, On Teaching!"
  - Make Sure Your Teaching:
    - Is Sound & Scriptural!
  - Make Sure Your Teaching:
    - Is According To "The Faith Which Was Once Delivered Unto The Saints!" (Jude 3)
  - Because Only This Kind Of Teaching:
    - Will Build Up The Body Of Christ!
    - Paul Further Adds:
- If You've Been Given:
  - The Spiritual Gift Of Exhortation:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Focus!
  - The Gift Of Exhortation:
    - Is The Ministry Of:
      - Exhorting & Encouraging God's People In Times Of Trial, Tragedy, And Temptation! Can Be Either A Public Or A Private Ministry!
  - So - 12:8a - "Or He That Exhorteth, On Exhortation!"
    - And - Keep Your Focus On:
      - The Only Thing That:
        - Will Truly Encourage & Edify!
        - The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
    - Even As Paul Does In:
      - Philippians 2:1 - "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, / Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind!"
      - Then - Paul Adds:
- If You've Been Given:
  - The Spiritual Gift Of Giving:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Forthrightness!
  - The Gift Of Giving:
    - Is The Ability To Provide For The Needs Of Individual Christians:
      - Personally & Privately With The Resources God Has Blessed You With!
  - So - 12:8b - "He That Giveth, Let Him Do It With Simplicity!"
    - Or - With Singleness Of Heart & Mind! And With No Ulterior Motive!
      - 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver!"
      - Paul Also Adds:
- If You've Been Given:
  - The Spiritual Gift Of Ruling / Leadership:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Fervency!
  - The Gift Of Ruling:
    - Most Likely Describes The Office Of A Church Elder - And Whose Ministry Includes Providing Direction & Drive For The Rest Of The Body!
      - To Lead By Example - As Paul Describes - 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!"
  - So - 12:8c - "He That Ruleth, With Diligence!"
    - There Is A Need To Lead:
      - With Vision & With Vigor!
      - And To Guard Against Serving In An Indifferent Way!
      - Paul Finally Adds:
- If You've Been Given:
  - The Spiritual Gift Of Mercy:
    - Then - Actively Serve With Felicity!
  - The Gift Of Mercy:
    - Refers To The Proactive Willingness To Help And Show Compassion:
      - To Those Who Are In Need - Especially - "The Sick, Dying, And Bereaved!" (Hodge)
      - And To "Bring Sympathy To Sorrow!"



- So - 12:8d - "He That Sheweth Mercy, With Cheerfulness!"
  - Because - There Is Much Truth To:
    - The Proverb - 17:22 - "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine!"
- But - No Matter What Spiritual Gift You've Been Given:
  - It Is An Act Of Grace:
    - To Serve The Body Of Christ:
      - With Your Gift!
  - And - No Matter What Spiritual Gift You Have:
    - You Should Serve In The Same Way & With The Same Spirit As Was Just Described!
      - With Fluency In The Word!
      - With Fulness & Your Best!
      - With Faithfulness To The Truth!
      - With Focus - On Christ & The Gospel!
      - With Forthrightness - Singleness Of Mind!
      - With Fervency - Galatians 6:9 - "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not!"
      - With Felicity & Joy In The Lord!
- Because - When You Use Your Spiritual Gifts:
  - In The Spirit Of Grace:
    - It Builds Up The Body Of Christ - **And:**
      - It Is The Kind Of Living Sacrifice:
        - That Is Holy & Acceptable / Well-Pleasing To The Lord!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - Let The Grace Of God:
  - Transform You:
    - Today!
  - Let It Transform:
    - Your Thoughts And Attitude:
      - To Become More & More Like:
        - The Humble Spirit Of Your Savior!
    - Let It Transform:
      - Your Testimony And Association:
        - To Become More & More Like:
          - Christ & His Love & Care:
            - For His Body & His Flock!
      - Let It Transform:
        - Your Treatment & Actions:
          - To Become More & More Like:
            - The Active Service Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
              - Even As Paul Describes In 2 Corinthians 8:9 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich!"
  - 2. Let Your:
    - Thoughts Toward - And:
      - Your Testimony About - And:
        - Your Treatment Of:
          - The People Of God:
            - Be Always With Grace!
      - For This Is:
        - The "Good, And Acceptable, And Perfect Will Of God!" (12:2)

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