

LESSON 25: ROMANS 12:3-8
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

OVERVIEW

- . It all begins with our minds – Romans 12:3
- . One body in Christ – Romans 12:4-5
- . God's gift to Christ's body – Romans 12:6-8

IT ALL BEGINS WITH OUR MINDS – ROMANS 12:3

- . Two common errors
 - . To think too highly of ourselves
 - . This is the greatest of the two dangers because it is the one that comes most naturally
 - . We want other people to have a similarly exalted opinion of us
 - . Some people have a high opinion of themselves because of having been born into a distinguished family or a certain strata of society
 - . Some take pride in who they know
 - . Some Christians take pride in their denomination
 - . Some have a high opinion of themselves because of what they have accomplished
 - . Some take pride in certain gifts they have been blessed with
 - . Paul was writing this letter from Corinth where the church was struggling with worldly pursuits, prestige, wealth and political power
 - . To think too lowly of ourselves
 - . Some pretend to exude a false sense of humility hoping others will heap praise upon them
 - . Some truly believe they were a mistake, with nothing to contribute
 - . These people have a low opinion of themselves and need to find the proper self-worth
 - . They need to see that they have been made by God and that they are important to God
 - . They need to find and embrace the gifts God has given them and not try to compare themselves to others
- . The right way to think of ourselves
 - . We are to think of ourselves with sober judgment
 - . We are made in the image of God
 - . We are filled with the Spirit of God
 - . We are part of the plan of God

- . We are to think of ourselves in line with the measure of faith God has given
 - . Think of ourselves in accordance with the specific gifts or talents God has given us
 - . The church contains many members each with his own set of gifts
 - . We should value our contribution to the betterment of the whole and value each of our brother's contributions
 - . No member should exalt themselves above others – instead we should honor the gifts and contributions of others above ourselves

ONE BODY IN CHRIST – ROMANS 12:4-5

- . A Christian often associates “one body in Christ” with Church
 - . The word Church appears for the first time in scripture, in the New Testament
 - . Church comes from Greek word ekklesia, - means assembly or called-out
 - . The church belongs to Jesus Christ
 - . He is the head of the Church and we are members of the body
- . The Church with a capitol C is Catholic, also with a capitol C, which means universal
 - . We are the Church
 - . In the Old Testament there was the tabernacle and the tabernacle was in Jerusalem
 - . It was a physical place where Jews went to worship God
 - . Its where they brought their sacrifices
 - . It's where the “law” was housed in the Most Holy of Places
 - . The tabernacle was the heart and soul of Jewish religion
 - . In the New Testament we have the Church, which is the Body of Christ
 - . With Christ's death and resurrection, Christians now have the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - . The Spirit is what unites us in one Body – Christ's Body
 - . We now represent the Church – it lives within us
- . There is only one Church
 - . One body
 - . It is alive and its parts support and depend on one another
 - . “If one part suffers, every part suffers, every part suffers with it: if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” – I Corinthians 12:26
 - . One Spirit
 - . We, as members, still have our individuality, our uniqueness
 - . Yet we are bound by one Spirit, the same Spirit in all of us
 - . The Spirit works to draw us to Christ
 - . The Spirit works to draw us closer to a Oneness in purpose
 - . The Spirit is also performing a work of sanctification in each of us

- . One hope
 - . This refers to the return of Christ, the resurrection of believers and the final judgment
 - . This is the shared expectation of all who belong to Christ
- . One Lord
 - . We all have the same Lord, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior
- . One faith
 - . In this passage faith refers to the gospel
 - . Christian faith is based on the revealed truth of God
 - . We may have minor differences in some of the biblical interpretations
 - . These differences should not divide us
- . One God
 - . All the components of our faith lead us to one God, who we put above all else and who needs to be at the center of our lives
 - . We exist for God and for God's glory

GOD'S GIFTS TO CHRIST'S BODY – ROMANS 12:6-8

- . The image of the Church as Christ's body also points to the diversity within its unity
 - . God has given each of us unique gifts
 - . Therefore, we are to function differently from others using these gifts God has given us
 - . We need to never forget the purpose of these gifts is to be used to strengthen the body
 - . Every Christian has been given at least one gift
 - . Every Christian has the ability to strengthen the overall Church body
- . Learning to better understand our gifts and then exercising our gifts
 - . There are several places in the New Testament where there is a various spiritual gifts
 - . Romans 12:6-8
 - . I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30
 - . Ephesians 4:11
 - . 1 Peter 4:11
 - . The gift of prophecy
 - . In the Old and New Testament a prophet is one who speaks the words of God
 - . There needed to be prophets during this time because God's Word was still not complete
 - . Today there are no longer prophets because God's Word is complete and available to any who wish to grow in their understanding of God and His desired relationship with man

- . The gift of prophecy is no longer with the Church and we need to beware of false prophets
- . Anyone called to teach must be careful not to go further than what God has actually revealed in scripture
- . The gift of serving
 - . The whole concept of serving is born of the Greek word *diakonian* from which we get the word deacon
 - . This is a truly selfless gift of putting others interests before our own and wanting to serve them to strengthen the overall body
- . The gift of teaching
 - . This is the chief gift of those who are called to be pastors
 - . A person called to be a pastor must have the gift of teaching
 - . A third of all Christians have this gift and need to use it
- . The gift of encouraging
 - . This involves much more than giving someone a slap on the back
 - . This gift appears more than 100 times in the New Testament
 - . This gift calls one to walk alongside another willing to help out
 - . Encouragement was the gift of Barnabas, who traveled with Paul
 - . Barnabas means Son of Encouragement
- . The gift of leadership
- . The gift of showing mercy
 - . We are called to show mercy "cheerfully" not begrudgingly
 - . A fruit of the Sprit is mercy and something that every Christian needs to strive for

NEXT LESSON - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 - ROMANS 12:9-21