

## Using Our Gifts to the Glory of God

*Rom 12:4-8* <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.

As we have come from “doctrine” to “duty”, from “principles” to “practice” I came across this quote from a Dr. Sam. Storms and I liked it. “*Christian obedience is always theologically motivated: we do what we do because God did what He did.*”

Last Sunday we noted that the fall had not only affected our relationship with God, but also our relationship with society.

For instead of living in a manner that honored God, man became proud, boastful and self-centered and the result caused society to become terribly disrupted, damaged, and broken. Now after conversion, not only have we been restored in our relationship with God, we have at the same time entered a new relationship with our fellow believers. But because the elements of the fall still lie within us we are now engaged in a battle to turn from selfish motives and to use the gift of salvation to the glory of God and to the strengthening of our brothers and sisters in Christ. God through the Apostle Paul now gives us instruction as to how we are to engage this endeavor before us.

I have said we have left doctrine and entered lessons on living, but in all reality we will be in a very real sense engaged in the study of the doctrine of the church. Why does the church exist and what is the purpose of and the makeup of the church? For Paul here instructs us that we are members one of another and have received gifts for the purpose of building up the church, which is the body of Christ. We will consider this under 1<sup>st</sup>, the Source of the Different Gifts, and 2<sup>nd</sup> the Purpose of the Gifts and 3<sup>rd</sup> our Responsibility in the Use of Our Gifts.

### A. The source of the different gifts.

#### 1. God

- a. Indeed our very existence depends upon God.

*Acts 17:28* “. . . for in Him we live and move and have our being,”

- b. Our standing in Christ is a gift from God.

- (1) Faith - *Eph 2:8* For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God

- (2) Repentance - *2 Tim 2:24-25* “. . . a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God **perhaps** will **grant them repentance.**”

- c. Any particular gifts you may have - - - you must ask what do I have that I did not receive? - For **who makes you differ from another?**

And **what do you have that you did not receive?** *1 Cor 4:7*

*James 1:17* Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights

2. Whatever gifts or mercies you have received are yours by the grace of God alone. - *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us* (v. 6)

- a. Paul's testimony - *1 Cor 15:10* - *But by the grace of God I am what I am*

B. What is the purpose of the different gifts? - *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, **let us use them***

1. They are to be used to the glory God - *Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31)*
2. Another purpose of the fact that we have different gifts is to humble us.
  - a. We as singular members cannot boast against another member.
  - b. Even as each physical body member of your body needs the other members.

*1 Cor 12:20-26 But now indeed there are **many members, yet one body. 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."** No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. . .*

*. . . But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

- a. Your little finger is of great value for the strength to grip an item is in your little finger.
- b. It is God's wisdom that makes the body of Christ complete, when each part stands in need of the other.

*1 Cor 12:17-19 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?*

1. So we must look upon each one, ourselves included as most important to the body, because we as a whole are the church.
  - a. We dare not look upon the church as just an organized body as though we were just a service organization.
  - b. Rather we must look upon the church as the body of Christ with an important mission to fill.

*Eph 1:22-23 ". . . the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

2. It is only in Christ, it is only in His church that one can have unity in diversity.
  - a. Each of us both serve and being served.
  - b. Each one of us with our differing gifts are all equally important and necessary.
  - c. The world cannot know, cannot understand and cannot provide such a body of individuals.

C. Our responsibility then is to use the different gifts God has given us to one ultimate end.

1. The purpose God gave us differing gifts is that as many members we may yet as one people glorify God.

*Rom 15:5-6 Now may the God of patience and comfort **grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

2. That as His redeemed people we may warn, encourage, and uphold one-another.

*1 Thess 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.*

- (1) Is there sin in the church – correct it.
- (2) Are there fearful ones in the church – comfort them.
- (3) Are there weak members in the church – hold them up.

CONCLUSION: Do you see now how Paul is still establishing doctrine.

He is showing the purpose of the organized church.

He is clearly revealing the ultimate end, the true value of the church and pointing out that its purpose is twofold.

1. To Glorify God
2. To provide for the whole of God's redeemed, the body of Christ.

*1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one **for the profit of all:***