

### **We, Being Many, Are One Body in Christ**

Rom 12.3 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. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 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; 7 if ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 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.

\* **What is** the significance of the opening word “for” in vs 3?

\* **How do** our view of the church and our attitudes, words, and actions toward it and those in it relate to presenting ourselves to God and being transformed by the renewing of our minds?

\* **Can Satan**, sin, and our own flesh operate in the context of spiritual gifts and the local church?

\* **What do** we learn from the Corinthian church?

\* **Where did** Paul compose his letter to the church in Rome and for what purpose?

\* **In vs 3**, what does Paul mean by:

– “the grace given to me”

– “to everyone who is among you”

– “not to think of himself more highly than he ought”

– “but to think soberly”

– “as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith”

*Eph 2.8 by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 ... lest anyone should boast.*

*1Cor 12.1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant ... 3 Therefore I make known to you that ... no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord ... 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all*

\* **What spiritual** gifts do modern Christians have the most questions about and why?

\* **How did** God use miracles during the 40 years of wilderness wanderings vs in the land of Canaan? How did this prefigure the first generation church?

*Luke 9.30 Moses and Elijah ... appeared ... and spoke [with Jesus] of His decease [lit., "exodus"] which He was about to accomplish*

*1Cor 10.1 [A]ll our fathers ... passed through the sea, ... 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ ... 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition*

*Deut 8. 2 [T]he Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness ... 3 ... He ... fed you with manna ... 4 Your garments did not wear out ... nor did your foot swell*

*Josh 5.12 [T]he manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land*

\* **How do** we know further revelation ceased once the apostolic era concluded?

*Heb 1.1 God, who ... spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son ... 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, ... when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*

\* **What does** vs 6 mean when it refers to prophesying "in proportion to our faith" (lit., "in accordance with the *analogia* of faith")?

*Jude 3 [C]ontend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*

\* **What did** the early church mean by the "rule of faith"?

\* **What is** the purpose of the official ministry gifts — pastor, teacher, evangelist, and in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, apostle & prophet?

*Eph 4.11 [Christ] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*

\* **Who is** the perfect example? (Luke 24).

\* **Is there** informal ministry of teaching & admonition as well?

*Col 3.16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another*

\* **Paul's main point:** Be \_\_\_\_\_ for the differing gifts God has sovereignly distributed and those to whom he has sovereignly distributed them; be thankful that we have \_\_\_\_\_ functions within the body of Christ.

\* **Paul is** saying in so many words, don't get fixated on your \_\_\_\_\_ and on your \_\_\_\_\_; rather use your gift to \_\_\_\_\_ others in the body. That's why God gave you that gift — to \_\_\_\_\_ up others in the body.

\* **Be thankful** and serve, and it will become apparent to others what your \_\_\_\_\_ is, and they will let you know.