One Body, Many Members

Brent Moody · Romans 12:3–8

INTRODUCTION

- The end of it is exactly what the Bible teaches, which is that we're working to fill the earth with his glory. That's the goal.
- A lot of what Paul's trying to do in the book of Romans is avoid the Jew-Gentile conflict that he's worried about.
- He's wanting them to live in harmony. He's wanting them to act in ways that are good for the whole body, not just for themselves.

1 The Attitude of Humility

Romans 12:3

- If we want to do what's good for the body in general, it's not just doing what I want to do or doing what's good for me.
- Realizing this is not really about me. I am not the hero of the story.
- He's not saying you shouldn't see your own value. Actually, quite the opposite. He's saying you need to see your value properly.
- The idea here is that believers have to evaluate their gifts honestly.
- I'm going to have to sacrifice my pride at times. Things that I think I would like to do and realize somebody else is better at those.
- It's saying, Lord, take me and use me where I am best suited in your kingdom.

2 Members Do Not All Have the Same Function

Romans 12:4; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 13

- Members do not all have the same function. It's meant to be that way.
- What would the body be like if everyone were an eye? Paul asks.
- Just because we can see some of the things out here actually doesn't mean they're more important than the things that we don't see.
- Nobody gets up here to do those things. But they are super valuable within the body of Christ.
- God's people need to see the value and the important non-worship and non-public gifts.

3 Individually Members One of Another

Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 14; Philippians 2

- Sacrifice your pride, not who you are.
- The things that I'm doing, the things that you're doing, they're all meant to be for one another.
- Worshiping God, building up the body. That's what matters.

- So I guess the question I have to ask myself is when's the last time I made a decision based on how it impacts the body.
- You cannot separate the individual from the group. It just doesn't work.
- Are we thinking about how the decisions that we make impact everyone else? Or are we just thinking about ourselves?

4 Use Your Gifts

Romans 12:6–8; Hebrews 12; 1 Corinthians 12:27–28

- Whatever our abilities and our gifts are, Paul says we need to use them.
- If you're a good teacher, if you know this about yourself, or you've worked on this and you've developed it in your life, you should be stepping in and teaching.
- If you're someone who is good with words, make an effort to exhort and to encourage.
- The idea is that you give without strings attached. Or that you give without an agenda behind it.
- If you are in a leadership role, whether it's an elder or a deacon or you're leading in some other way, do it with zeal.
- When's the last time you thought about that being as important as leading a song in public service?

THE CHALLENGE

So I don't know if there's any calibration that's needed this morning. Maybe. That's a decision that I'm gonna have to make in my heart and you and yours.

MY NOTES