

Home Group Questions

the week of 10/22/2017

Romans 12:3-8

CONNECTED TO THE BODY

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on Romans chapters 12-16. This sermon focused on Romans 12:3-8 and addresses the way in which we should connect with the larger body of Christ as we serve humbly and use our gifts to serve Christ and others.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Romans 12:3-8. Immediately after the admonition to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, verse 3 reminds us not to “think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think”. Why do you think Paul immediately addresses the need for humility and confronts the danger of pride after the challenge to be transformed? What are the ways in which pride can show itself in the body and derail what God has in store for us? How does this relate to how we connect with one another in the use of our gifts? How can sober judgment about ourselves aid us in the service that we do for the Lord and in the way we relate to one another as we serve?

- Verse 6 highlights the need to “use” your gifts and the way in which you use them. Talk about that...how do we avoid a critical spirit in the church as we serve? How do we keep people from burning out in the church because of their service? What is the means by which a “body” stays healthy (think about your own physical body and how to maintain health...and how that may relate to maintain a healthy “body of Christ” (the church)?

2. Read Ephesians 4:1-22. As you read this passage you will get a sense that the principles in Ephesians were clearly demonstrated in the early church. Paul is driving home the principle of the church demonstrating a healthy “body life”. The ability for all

of us to look out for the needs of others and assist in the worship of Christ by utilizing our gifts and abilities to, ultimately, serve the Lord. Obviously, the higher the percentage is of people using the gifts in the way that Christ intended, the healthier the body (the church) will be.

- What are some important principles from this passage about the body of Christ and the value of each part. This passage highlights “speaking the truth in love” then focuses on the growth we are to experience in Christ. This growth happens, like our physical bodies, when we are connected to the rest of the body.

- What are some of the strengths that you see in your life (spiritual gifts) and some of the blessings and challenges you face in utilizing your gifts? If you were to give advice to new Christians as they seek to begin utilizing their gifts in the church, what words of wisdom would you impart to them?

Realizing that this passage links growth and the utilization of gifts very closely, what are some ways we can encourage others in the church to utilize their gifts without putting them off or giving them a “guilt trip”?

3. Read Colossians 3:16-17. This passage highlights the priority of the Word (truth) and worship in the church. What are some of the qualities Paul highlights in this passage that pertain to the way the Word should affect our lives and the way in which we are to enter into worship? How should the reality of Christ in you translate to your actions at church on Sunday morning with people around you who are regular attenders, and with people around you who are visitors? If greeting people is not your strength, what are some things you can do to add to the welcoming atmosphere for those who visit Riverview?

MOVING FORWARD... Pray that God would give you the discipline, knowledge and focus to renew your mind!!