

MANY Parts ONE Body ~ Romans 12:4-8

→ Scripture Reading- Rom. 4:3-8

INTRODUCTION

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

We are ONE BODY... ~ Romans 12:4-5

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

COMPARISON: Newell

- our bodies have MANY parts
- these parts form a UNITY
- each part is DEPENDENT on other parts
- the parts do DIFFERENT work

IMPLICATIONS

⁵...in Christ we who are **MANY form ONE body**, and EACH member belongs to **ALL** the others.

There is **unity** (one body), **diversity** (many), and **interdependency** (members of one another). BBC

1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT) The human body has MANY PARTS, but the many parts make up **ONE whole body**. So it is with the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:17-20 (NIV) If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact **God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as HE wanted them to be.** ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, **but ONE body**.

IMPLICATIONS

James 1:16-17 (NIV) Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷ Every **good and perfect GIFT** is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

...with Many DIFFERENT Parts ~ Romans 12:6-8

⁶ We have different GIFTS, according to the GRACE given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is servicing, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Grace-Gifts are manifestations of the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit. He not only gives the gifts just as He determines but He also empowers their use for the common good. HNTC

IMPLICATIONS

We are ONE body - UNITY vs. 4-5

We have MANY members/parts - DIVERSITY vs 6-8

The members do NOT have the same function but they share the **Same PURPOSE**. Ingram

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ **He makes** the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Spiritual Gift- a God-granted empowerment for ministry HBD

Spiritual Gift- a special ability or skill GIVEN by God for the BENEFIT of the Church

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT) **God** has given **EACH** of you a GIFT from his great variety of **spiritual gifts**. Use them WELL to **serve one another**.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) To **EACH** is given the manifestation of the Spirit **FOR the COMMON good**.

Spiritual Gifts

- are GIVEN by God
- to EACH believer
- FOR the COMMON Good

Spiritual Gifts are **TOOLS** to **build with**, NOT **toys** to play with, or **weapons** to fight with. Wiersbe

IMPLICATIONS

When we Emphasize Spiritual Gifts OVER Spiritual Maturity...

- we focus on the GIFT rather than the GIVER
- we become SELF-ABSORBED in DOING OUR thing
- we refuse to SERVE in ANY other way

In Light God's MERCY we...

- OFFER ourselves as a Living Sacrifice
- refuse to be CONFORMED to the World
- are TRANSFORMED as our minds are Renewed
- do Not have an EXAGGERATED view of ourselves
- remember we are ONE BODY with MANY PARTS
- SERVE others willingly

TAKE AWAY ??

Three Questions Ingram

- WHO am I?
- WHERE do I Belong?
- WHAT am I here for?

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.