

Ecclesiology: The Study of the Church

Lesson 9: The Gospel-Driven Church

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INTR	ODUCTION
	1. What are some areas of responsibility in the church that people are unmotivated to fulfill? Why do you think there is a lack of motivation in these areas?
In this	s study we're going to discover how the gospel motivates and equips us to build each other up in the n.
MAIN	N IDEA
_	ospel not only frees us from sin individually, it also equips us to live together as a church in a way that unity, helps others grow spiritually, and brings glory to God.
DIGG	GING IN
	eleven chapters of expounding the gospel of God's grace, in Romans 12 Paul turns to exhort us about how in light of the gospel.
Roma	ns 12:1–2.
1.	On what basis does Paul appeal to us in this passage?
2.	What is Paul referring to when he speaks of "the mercies of God"?
3.	In verse 2, what does Paul tell us not to do? What does he tell us to do? How are we to do this?

Immediately after this opening exhortation, Paul fleshes out what he means in very practical terms.

Romans 12:3-13.

4.	List all the things Paul exhorts us to do in this passage in the chart below, along with the verse each one
	is found in. As you do, indicate whether this is a command that is primarily individual or corporate. That
	is, is it something you simply do yourself, or does it involve relating to others in the church?

Command (v)	Individual or Corporate?

In verse 3, Paul gives his first example of what it means not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds: "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."

5.	How does the gospel equip us to think of ourselves with sober judgment?				
6.	What will be some of the results in our relationships if we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to?				

7.	What will be some of the results in our relationships if we think of ourselves with sober judgment?
8.	Here's another implication of the gospel that Paul addresses: since we are in Christ by faith, we are all members of the same body. What does Paul exhort us to do in light of this? (See vv. 4–8)
9.	What are some ways that you can seek to build up others through gifts God has given you?
10.	How does the gospel equip and motivate us to genuinely love others with brotherly affection and to outdo each other in showing honor (vv. 9–10)?
11.	In verse 13 Paul urges us, "contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." How does the gospel empower and motivate us to care for others' needs in the church and to extend hospitality?
12.	What are some practical ways that you can contribute to the needs of the saints and show hospitality?
13.	In Romans 15:7, at the very end of his extended discussion of how we should live as a church in light of the gospel, Paul sums everything up by saying, "Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God." What are some other practical ways you can think of that we can welcome each other in the church instead of creating division and disunity? ¹

¹ Bobby Jamieson, *God's Good News: The Gospel*, ed. Mark Dever, 9Marks Healthy Church Study Guides (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 41–44.