

- Can include the role of elders in the church, but also the leading of other ministries, and even leadership in homes.
- Lead with zeal or eagerness – diligently, with effort.

(g) **MERCY**

- Especially sensitive to needs of others and their suffering and sorrows.

“ability to notice misery and distress that may go unnoticed by others, and with the desire and means to help alleviate such afflictions.” ~J. MacArthur

- This should be done not begrudgingly but cheerfully.

(3) **Location for Gifts**

- (a) The context for the use of gifts is the local church
- (b) This is where gifts are most naturally experienced and participated in.
- (c) Romans is addressed to more than one assembly however (see chapter 16), and we can use our giftedness in connection with believers outside the walls of our own church.
- (d) But the building up and one-another ministry the NT calls for is best practiced with a known group of people that we live the Christian life together with.
- (e) We minister to them and are blessed by them – and in fact we grow to love them.

- Spiritual Gifts go hand in hand with love – what the rest of chapter 12 focuses on. (See also 1 Cor. 13).

Schedule:

- Next week: no class (Memorial Day), next week continue chapter 12

Previous Handouts

- Online: www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school

Credits:

Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:

- *Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
- *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
- *Teaching Romans, Volume Two: Unlocking Romans 9-16 for the Bible Teacher* by Christopher Ash [Christian Focus, 2009]

V. The Transforming Power of the Gospel: Christian Conduct (12:1-15:13)

A. Exhortation to Live the Christian Life (12:1-13:14)

1. The Christian Life as Total Transformation (12:1-2)

a) Basis of Transformation

- The imperative (right conduct) is based on the indicative (right belief) – all the teaching in chapters 1-11.

“All that Paul has written in the letter thus far may be summed up under the heading of the mercy of God in action.” ~ Douglas Moo

- The “appropriate and expected response to God’s mercy” is for us to present ourselves [continually] as living sacrifices.

b) Life as a Sacrifice

- (1) Living
- (2) Holy
- (3) Pleasing

c) Spiritual Worship

d) Total Transformation

- (1) Stop being conformed to this age/world
- (2) Be transformed (metamorphosis)
- (3) By renewal of your mind

“Offered bodies come from changed minds...” ~ Christian Ash

“...the mind is where spiritual growth occurs...” ~ Grant Osborne

- (4) So that you approve God’s will

“Paul’s vision, to which he calls us, is of Christians whose minds are so thoroughly renewed that we know from within, almost instinctively, what we are to do to please God in any given situation.” ~ Douglas Moo

2. Humility and Mutual Service in the Church (12:3-8)

a) Perspective: thinking rightly, humbled by God’s grace (12:3)

- (1) Paul’s statement & authority
- (2) Think rightly

Play on words in the Greek: *“Do not think more highly... than what it is necessary to think... but think... in order to think soberly...”*

- “Measure of Faith” could refer to:

- The “standard” by which we are to judge ourselves: the common faith we all share in Christ.
- The different “measure” or “apportionment” given to each believer as God wills. Each has a different gifting in which to apply their faith.

(3) Common pitfalls

- (a) Over-estimate your personal importance because of gifts.
- (b) Tendency to pride in our gifting.
- (c) Thinking our gift is more important than others.
- (d) Under-estimate our worth and our giftedness.

b) Partnership: members one of another, the body of Christ (12:4-5)

• One Body but Many Members

“To belong to the age to come is to be ‘in Christ’, and this means to belong to one another in the local church, playing different parts in the one body... It is not about ‘worship’ through song or prayer, but worship expressed in serving one another. It is not about ‘me’ but about ‘us, in Christ’.” ~ Christopher Ash

- Many Different Members but belonging to one another
- Members one of another – entails participating in and using our spiritual gifts for the benefit of others... and receiving the benefit of the gifts of others

c) Participation: having different gifts, we use and receive them (12:6-8)

(1) **Having gifts**

- (a) What is a spiritual gift?
- (b) What are spiritual gifts for?
- (c) Who has spiritual gifts?
 - Don’t miss the basics: 1) We all have gifts. 2) The gifts vary among us. 3) All gifts come from God.

(2) **Specific gifts**

- (a) **PROPHECY**
 - There are differing opinions as to whether spontaneous revelations from God are intended here (and still experienced today).
 - All agree that interpreting and declaring the revelation of God (including past revelation) is included in this.
 - Speaking authoritatively for the Lord. Which today would include an expounding of God’s Word to others.

- And the purpose of speaking in this way is given in 1 Cor. 14:3. And ultimately it is to serve God and others, not self.
- Prophecy is to be in proportion to our faith. Could mean it should fit with the standard or measure of the received faith (the Reformed idea of “*analogia of faith*”); or the gift is to be employed with dependence on the faith God has measured to them for use in their gifting.

(b) **SERVICE (Ministry)**

- Same word for deacon – but probably wider than just the office of a deacon.
- Serving and ministering to others (word came from waiting on tables) – not to be well thought of as pious, but to serve others.

(c) **TEACHING**

- Pretty straightforward meaning here.
- Rather than give specific messages from God, a teacher is to explain the biblical truths God has delivered.
- Pastors are to be “apt to teach,” and are called “pastor-teachers” (Eph. 4).
- Teaching is central to Paul’s instructions for the church given to Timothy and Titus.

(d) **EXHORTATION**

- Can mean “exhort” or “encourage” or “admonish”.

“It refers to the practice of verbal care in general.” ~ Grant Osborne

- Exhorting others in the faith Heb. 10:24 “...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”
- The purpose is to change people, not gain influence.

(e) **GIVING (one who shares)**

- A special graciousness in giving – or even sharing what you have with others.
- Could refer to those in the church who share from the church’s benevolent fund to others too – but likely broader than that.
- They should use this simply or generously, not to get credit or notice in return.

(f) **LEADERSHIP**