

- **Share the Joys and Sorrows of Fellow Believers** (v. 15)
- **Live in Harmony with Fellow Believers** (v. 16a)
  - Emphasis on right thinking – needed to have harmony.
- **Don't be proud** (v. 16b)

**d) Love for Unbelieving Outsiders (12:14, 17-21)**

- (1) **Attitude toward Persecutors** (v. 14)
  - Reflects Jesus' teaching: Matt. 5:44, Luke 6:27-28.
  - Catches the notice of unbelievers – 1 Pt. 2:12.
  - Follows Jesus' example – 1 Pt. 2:23, Luke 23:46.
- (2) **Don't Repay Evil for Evil** (v. 17a)
  - Reflects Jesus' teaching: Matt. 5:38-42; cf. 1 Thess. 5:15.
- (3) **Live Honorably & Peaceably with All** (vv. 17b-18)
- (4) **Leave Vengeance to God** (v. 19)
  - God will ultimately set things right
  - We can pray (imprecatory psalms, and Rev. 6:10).
- (5) **Overcome Evil with Good** (vv. 20-21)

*"The evil man who is overcome by good is set free, not from an exterior, foreign evil but from an interior, personal one, by which he is more grievously and ruinously laid waste than he would be by the inhumanity of any enemy from without." ~ Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> Century church Father)*

**Schedule:**

- Next week: starting chapter 13.

**Previous Handouts**

- Online: [www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school](http://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. Transforming Power of 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)**

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

- a) **Perspective:** thinking rightly, humbled by God's grace (12:3)
- b) **Partnership:** members one of another, the Body of Christ (12:4-5)
- c) **Participation:** having different gifts, we use & receive them (12:6-8)

**(1) Having gifts**

- (a) We all have spiritual gifts.
- (b) The gifts vary among us.
- (c) All gifts come from God.

**(2) Specific gifts**

**(a) PROPHECY**

- This could refer to spontaneous revelations from God (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 should be exercised in proportion to our faith.

**(b) SERVICE (ministry)**

- Same word for *deacon*; serving and ministering to others (word came from waiting on tables).
- This gift is to be used to serve others (not for self-regard or to be thought of as pious).

**(c) TEACHING (one who teaches)**

- A teacher explains biblical truths God has delivered.
- Pastors are to be "apt to teach."
- Teaching is central to Paul's instructions for the church given to Timothy and Titus.
- The gift is for teaching not for self-gain (James 3:1).

**(d) EXHORTATION (one who exhorts)**

- 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 (one who leads)**

- 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 (one who does acts of 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.
- (f) Spiritual gifts go hand in hand with love (see also 1 Cor. 13).

**3. Love for insiders and outsiders – (12:9-21)**

*“The love that grows under grace within the church fellowship naturally overflows towards those outside...” ~ Christopher Ash*

**e) Primacy of LOVE (12:9)**

- “Genuine” or “sincere” = not hypocritical
- Love will hate evil and love good – Amos 5:15, Ps. 97:10

*“Love is not genuine when it leads a person to do something evil or to avoid doing what is right – as defined by God in his Word.” ~ Doug Moo*

**f) Love for Fellow Believers (12:10-13, 15-16)**

- (1) **Be Devoted to the Family of God** (v. 10)
  - Love with brotherly affection (v. 10a)
  - Outdo each other in showing honor (v. 10b)
- (2) **Be Faithful in Christian Service** (v. 11-12)
  - Not lacking in zeal (v. 11a)
  - Fervent in spirit [or, Spirit] (v. 11b)
  - Serving the Lord (v. 11c)

*“When the Spirit takes over, we are set aflame for God and thus will be serving the Lord.” ~ Grant Osborne*

- **Hope, endurance and prayer** (v. 12)
  - Rejoice in hope (v. 12a)
  - Be patient in trials (v. 12b)
  - Be constant in prayer (v. 12c)
  - These go together: Rom. 5:3-5; 8:23-27. (See also, James 1:2-4; 1 Pt. 1:6-7.)
- (3) **Meet the Needs of Fellow Believers** (v. 13, 15-16)
  - **Share with God’s People Who are in Need** (v. 13a)
    - “Contribute” or “share” is the verb form of “koinonia” – the special communion believers share.
    - Used of giving: Rom. 15:27, Phil. 4:15; Gal. 6:6.
    - Three circles of this ministry of helps:
      - 1- one’s own family – 1 Tim. 5:4, 8
      - 2- fellow believers – 1 Jn. 3:16-18; Rom. 12:13
      - 3- wider community – Gal. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:15b
  - **Seek to Show Hospitality** (v. 13b)
    - Important ancient virtue yet needed today

*“In our day this is needed because most people are lonely and need someone who cares. In our individualistic society there are too few willing to share their homes” ~ Grant Osborne*