

Different Important Roles

Romans 12:3-8

I. Intro

- A. Recap: Transformations work independently has its full effect corporately
- B. We are collectively useful and independently ineffective.
- C. We receive this word, we:
 1. Serve together
 2. Pray together
 3. Give together
 4. Worship Together
 5. Proclaim together
 6. Fellowship Together
 7. Study Together

II. Text

- A. [Rom 12:3 ESV] 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
 1. By grace this message is sent
 2. Humility is self awareness in our heart for God
 3. Think with sober judgment, each according to the work of God in us
 4. ALL of us are a tool in the hands of God: wealthy, poor, brilliant, simple, ALL important, ALL created in the image of God, ALL expected to serve as they are gifted
- B. One Body, Many Members:
 1. We serve as we are gifted
 2. We develop our gifts
 3. Evangelism Shift Groups

III. Point

- A. Servanthood
 - 1. Every believer is to be a servant in the church, the body of Christ
 - 2. Scripture:
 - a) [Eph 2:10 ESV] 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 - b) [Phl 1:6-13 ESV] 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.
 - c) [Mat 5:16 ESV] 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - d) The scripture speaks of the good work we are called to and the impact it has.
 - 3. All believers are first servants, developing their gifts and growing in faith.
 - 4. Some believers are then called and equipped to also be leaders:
 - a) Gifts in development are crafted by the master potter, and we are the clay.
 - b) Allow the growth and development in your life that God intends to use to shape you into the useful tool He needs for the next task

B. Leadership

1. Leaders do not leave the calling of servanthood behind in order to become leaders.
2. Leaders continue in service to the body as they lead and serve as an example to all:
 - a) Leadership is added to the job description of a willing servant
 - b) Leadership is not a promotion from the seemingly mundane tasks of serving.
3. Military Example:
 - a) I had a friend in the Army who did not want to promote past Captain
 - b) He said that he was in the military to serve with the soldiers and promoting to a higher level would take that away.
 - c) We need to see our Christian service similarly:
 - (1) We do promote to a place where we are LORD of the congregation
 - (2) We already have a LORD of the congregation and we serve His mission.
4. My Story:
 - a) I grew up in a church that served the mission, with parents that served the mission.
 - b) I saw leaders willingly serving in all areas of the church
 - c) I also then, was called to serve as a leader, and started learning what that meant
 - d) I saw pastors as a tool of God to raise up servants with a positive example and work ethic.
 - e) I was then called to serve as a staff member, and experienced God shaping my gifts in different ways:
 - (1) As a youth minister, then missions and administration, I learned in the trenches what seminary would never fully explain.
 - (2) Seminary was important as well, but experience along with education made a difference
 - (3) But then, as I was being called to serve as a lead pastor, my heart changed again, as I saw the congregation differently.
 - (4) I loved the congregation with a deeper love than I could have understood before.
 - (5) God continues to shape me as a leader, and our church is in a growth spurt that requires further transition.
5. Leadership is a calling, and must be marked by the Spirit's work and evidence, this is a GIFT OF GRACE.

C. Gifts

1. Gifted by Grace
2. Serving in Grace
3. Gifted with importance
4. We need to pray and look deeply at the gifts God has placed in each of us:
 - a) Develop the gift
 - b) Serve in the gift while developing
 - c) Grow purposefully and directionally
5. Servants:
 - a) The word servant in scripture in DEACONOS, and we need to come together and reorganize our deacon ministry.
 - b) This does not exempt the rest of the congregation of service, but men appointed to be held accountable for the continued effectiveness of servant ministry.
6. Leaders:
 - a) Pastors, Shepherds, Bishops, Elders...Overseers of the flock, as well as servants in the flock.
 - b) We must pray for our leaders, and submit to leadership that is submitted to the head authority of the Church, Jesus Christ.
 - c) We have been so blessed with others that God has gifted for church leadership, and we need to allow for those gifts to be used.
 - d) As the church grows, we need more people to submit to the role of leader:

- (1) Sometimes the term elder is not received well because there are so many examples of how it has been done poorly.
- (2) But Elders are shepherds, not Lords, and we need to broaden our concept of leadership in order to continue growing a healthy and effective church.
- (3) Having lay-elders to come alongside pastoral staff in discerning God's direction, and caring for the flock is Biblical and healthy.
- (4) What we need is to have the most Biblical understanding of elders, and prayerfully implement a broadening of our leadership over the next year.
- e) Action: Pray and search the scripture, and help North Park become what God intends for us to be as a light to this community and a gospel presence around the world.

IV. Close

- A. I challenge each of you to scan the QR code and sign up for ministry
- B. I challenge you to sign up for Evangelism Training that is starting in February.
- C. I challenge you to give tithes and offerings to meet the needs of this church
- D. I challenge you to submit everything to God

[Rom 12:3-8 ESV] 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Tim Keller:

Pride makes empathy nearly impossible. Pride keeps us from really noticing people, from putting ourselves in their shoes, from recognizing when they are hurting and unhappy. It keeps us absorbed with our own agenda and needs.

“Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.”

- CS Lewis