

## Let Us Use Them; Romans 12:3-8

### I. Gifts

- A. God has given each one of us a gift(s)
- B. “One body... many members”
- C. “Having gifts that differ”
- D. Prophecy (proclaiming), service, teaching, exhortation, contributing, leading, mercy
- E. Each of us has a gift(s)

### II. One Body

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:14–20 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.
- B. God has put us here
  - 1. “God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.” verse 18
  - 2. Your presence here may have been of your choosing, but it was from God’s design
  - 3. God’s purpose in putting you here is that your gift(s) benefits the entire body
- C. “The members do not all have the same function” Romans 12:4
  - 1. Your gift complements all the others’ gifts. — this is the understanding of verse 17
  - 2. We are all part of each other (or should be), but each one of us has God given gifts
  - 3. We must search out (within ourselves) what our gifts are in order to use them

### III. Gifts That Differ

- A. We are given examples of some gifts
  - 1. Prophecy (proclaiming the word of God) — “The focus is not on new content but explaining the gospel message and how it applies today” <sup>1</sup>
  - 2. Serving (you see them after every meeting of the congregation, cleaning up, closing down, locking the building, etc.)
  - 3. Teaching
  - 4. Exhortation (appeal to, urge, encourage) — to call to one’s side, summon aid
  - 5. Contribute — both in money and other resources
    - a) Share your tunic (Luke 3:11)
    - b) Share some spiritual gift (Romans 1:11)
    - c) Share your earnings (Ephesians 4:28)
    - d) Share the Gospel and themselves (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
  - 6. Leading (a position of authority — he might be referring to Elders and Deacons)
  - 7. Mercy — This would include such helpful activities as feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and caring for the aging. These are to be done cheerfully. The afflicted have troubles of their own. They have no need of “helpers” who carry out their obligation as if they were great crushing burdens.” <sup>2</sup>
- B. If you notice, it is our attitude about our gift that Paul thinks is most important

### IV. Let Us Use Them

- A. Let us use our gifts without coercion, grumbling, or complaining

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<sup>1</sup> Robert James Utley, *The Gospel according to Paul: Romans*, vol. Volume 5, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 1998), Ro 12:6.

<sup>2</sup> Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, vol. 27, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 235–236.

- B. We must be cheerful, excited, jubilant that God has given us an outlet to use the precious gift he has given us
- C. Using our gifts is mandatory
  - 1. God would not give us something He does not expect us to use in His service
  - 2. Jesus is giving parables on what the Kingdom of Heaven will be like
  - 3. If you remember, I have shown you that when Jesus speaks about the Kingdom of Heaven (or God) He is referring to the age of the Church (us)
  - 4. Matthew 25:14–15 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
  - 5. God has given you your talents in accordance with your abilities — there are people who have many talents and some who have one
  - 6. Remember — God has placed you here according to His desires and He knows that your gifts fit perfectly in this congregation
  - 7. God’s expectation is that you put your gifts to work!
  - 8. Matthew 25:16–18 (ESV); <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.
  - 9. Our gifts increase with their use
    - a) It takes practice to perfect a skill
    - b) Violin (any musical instrument)
    - c) Football (any sport)
    - d) It may seem difficult and overwhelming at first
  - 10. To those who used their talents and increased what they had Jesus said, “Well done, good and faithful servant” Matthew 25:21 and 23
  - 11. To the one who did not use his talent, but hid it...
  - 12. Matthew 25:26–30 (ESV); <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’
- D. Using your gift means you are a good and faithful servant — hiding your gift means you are a wicked, slothful, and worthless servant
- E. This is not an easy thing to hear, but it is an easy thing to change
- V. Your Gift
  - A. What is it? Have you figured it out?
  - B. God placed you here to use it in His service
  - C. “Well done, good and faithful servant”