

## Romans 12:3-8 Living Together pt 2

1/31/10 - The Exchange

- I. Review - Need everyone to think fast and listen fast today.
  - A. Paul back in application mode
  - B. Connect the thoughts...
    1. In light of God's sovereignty, in light of whom he cuts off and grafts in, in light of faith and obedience...
    2. It should be reasonable, rational, logical, that we present our bodies to God as living sacrifices, for Him to do as He wills.
    3. How is this ongoing process accomplished? But not presenting ourselves to the world to be conformed, shaped by it. Rather, by the ongoing renewing of our minds, our thinking, our feeling, which will result in an outwardly transformed life. It is this process that is God's will, as our lives test and prove.
- II. **12:3-8**
  - A. **12:3** This renewing of our minds begins with how we think of us.
    1. **through the grace given to me** - personal experience
    2. **not to think more highly** - hyper-wise. Arrogance and low self esteem are both thinking more highly. "I'm too" thinking.
      - a) I'm too strong, smart, independent, important...
      - b) I'm too weak, dumb, needy, insignificant...
    3. **than he ought to think, but to think soberly** - than he needs to think. There is an appropriate level to think about yourself, and it isn't you compared to everyone else, it's you in communion with all. Be in control of your thinking.
    4. **as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith** - like cards, God has dealt out to each of us the right amount for us, what we need. We think we know what we need, we think we know what's best for us.
    5. **Don't think to highly (as the world would shape you), think with self control (a renewed mind), understanding that God has dealt to you what you need. Don't try to be more or less than.** Even this changes over time, but focus on the now.
  - B. **12:4** Illustration time!
    1. **many members** - lots of body parts
    2. **one body** - same body as in **12:1** a living sacrifice
    3. **function** - job, business, action, perform, office, works, "Acts"
    4. Vamp on the unity of the whole but specificity of the parts.
  - C. **12:5**
    1. **so** - in this or the same way
    2. **we being many, are one body in Christ** - same words. Vertical.
    3. **individually** - two words, every (all the way through) and one
    4. **members of one another** - horizontal. In and because of Christ.
    5. All of this is part of the "thinking" flow of thoughts.
    6. Need to spend some time talking about the body and gifts.
      - a) **Paul's main point is the unity and diversity of the body.**
      - b) Easy to get distracted by the theological correctness of the gifts and not operate in them. Paul assumes they know how they work, what they look like.

- D. **12:6-8** Ministry/Practical gifts. Mostly self explanatory. One test to find out which one(s) you have is to ask, "If I were in charge, what would I do?" Point back to Holy Spirit, Batman! series.
- E. Going to spend some time on **prophecy** as a gift and in the body.
- III. **1 Cor. 12-13, 14:1-5, 26-40.** Reintroduce spectrum. Frozen Chosen, Leaky Liberals.
- A. Problem with the English word "gift." Implies ownership. Not really. "Thank you for gracing us with your presence." Charisma.
- B. **1 Cor 12** Survey and highlight.
1. **12:1-11** Emphasize the unity and diversity.
  2. **12:12-31** Their problems was everyone wanted to do everything, especially prominent positions.
    - a) Our (America/TEC) is the opposite - either don't understand or are afraid to be the body.
    - b) Need to see the church as an organism, not organization.
  3. Our body being assembled. Some jump into a function, others are waiting for the need to arise. Being built in advance. No vestigial organs.
  4. Body parts growing and adapting. I teach one way, Bryan another, women's ministry runs in a non-typical churchy way. The need for individuals to grow an adapt within the range of body types and body roles. Again, unity in diversity.
  5. Will there be conflicts, problems, and mistakes? Absolutely. Does that mean we disobey this and not pursue being the body in our gifts? Absolutely not.
- C. **1 Cor 13** Not saying gifts should/have/will cease, just pointing out that without love it's fluff. They had lost love apparently. Characteristic of going to far from the middle of pendulum/spectrum.
- D. **14:1-5, 26-40**
1. **14:1** Focus on prophecy. Define first.
    - a) Anything God speaks is by definition the "word of God". But, God speaks different kinds of things. Doctrine and directions. Sometimes they overlap. God is done with doctrine, not done with direction. Every time you seek the Lord about something you are asking for Him to speak, special revelation.
    - b) My def. - the act of communicating information from God.
    - c) Zod. def. V - IX, XI.
  2. **14:2-5, 26, 29-33, 36-39.** Put it in body context; spinal cord, nerves. My finger and model making. Without communication, paralysis.
- IV. Does God still speak today? Resounding "yes," tension over what and how. We have a communicative God! Basis for relationship.
- A. What - direction, encouragement, correction, not doctrine. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Paul, Philip.
- B. Does it always make sense to the one receiving/communicating it? No. Joseph, Daniel, John. **Acts 10:9-16.** A new thing? No, intention the whole time. Phar knew word, but missed Messiah.
- C. **2 Peter 1:2-4** Knowledge gained through experience and promises, including promise of **Acts 1:8.**
- D. **Acts 2:16-21** God will speak through diff people in diff ways, and that way changes over time even. **Heb. 1:1-2. Acts 2:37-39,** for us today.
- V. What about the dangers and abuses? (Just asked about this at SB).
- A. Bogus
1. "The Lord told me to go to SB instead of Peet's today." "
  2. My normal road was closed, guess God didn't want me to go that way today."
  3. "You have unconfessed sin, brother!"
  4. Older man telling teen girl, "You have spirit of seduction." No, you have lust!
  5. "You're supposed to give me \$10,000." "You are supposed to marry me."
  6. Fleeces.
- B. Dangers, problems, abuses and counterfeits are nothing new.
1. In OT they were to stone one prophets who were false.
  2. **1 Thess. 5:16-22.**
- C. How then?
1. Still small voice.
  2. Visions.
  3. Dreams.
  4. Circumstances.
  5. The Word.
- VI. Wrap up
- A. Might seem like I'm fixated on this, or this is what i want to see everyone doing all the time. No, no, no. Because of the weirdness it is like many of them a neglected function of the body. It's a vital one without which the body is paralyzed.
- B. It is for the building up of the body, it is to be tested, it is to be learned, it is not to be abandoned because of what might go wrong. Do to so is to be ruled by fear.
- C. Ultimately, as with all the gifts and power of the Spirit, it is to draw people to Jesus.