

ROMANS 12:6-21

Introduction:

1. As we continue in Romans 12, we will show some things that believers should be responsible to do with their life - especially the application of how grace operates in one's "renewed mind".
2. These remaining verses deal with: our Christian conduct, our practice, our behavior, and our lifestyle in being ambassadors for Christ.
3. In verse 6-8, Paul mentions seven gifts that God designed to be used by believers to minister to their fellow saints and to all that would listen. Our ministry starts in Ephesians 3:9 - *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

Romans 12:6-8 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; Rom. 12:7 Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering*: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Rom. 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

*Every believer has a gift. Some have several and God can use your gift to help edify others for the cause of Christ. The first 4 gifts deal with the inspiration of proclaiming the truth of God's Word.

1. The gift of prophecy - This gift of prophecy was very important in the early churches. When Paul was writing his letters at that time, the New Testament had not been totally completed yet. Paul's letters had not even become part of the Scriptures. So, God was still using these gifted men, by the Holy Spirit, to speak the Word of God to others.

2 Timothy 2:2, 3:14 - And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2Tim. 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

- a. If we understand that using the word "prophecy" means to proclaim the truth of the Word, that's fine. Back then, prophecy was active until Paul laid out the Mystery Body truth.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 - According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 1Cor. 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- b. If prophecy were given today, that would mean the Bible is not complete. Prophets are no longer in the church today. Although, if it is used as the element of "illumination" of God's Word to share with the church and not by "inspiration", that would be okay. Showing light on God's Word would be our goal.
2. The gift of ministry - This is where one serves to meet another's needs, or to help others.
 - a. This ministry is a very broad term meaning service for the Lord. It does not particularly mean holding an office or a position in the church - but this person has the gift of a servant's heart.
 - b. It is a practical application of the Word of God to our daily living. This is the one gift that is obtainable to every believer in the Body of Christ church to be faithful.

Galatians 5:13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
 3. The gift of teaching - This is where one is able to accurately interpret the Word and make it understandable to the hearers, in order to make sense.

- a. Teaching is one of the most important gifts to use in instructing others in the truth of what God's Word is saying.
- b. The teacher's task is to set forth the fundamental truths of the Bible for the building up and edification of the saints.

2 Timothy 2:2 - And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

- c. The teacher needs to study dispensationally and examine the Scriptures to make sure they are interpreted correctly. This will help others to mature in Christ and not be ashamed.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

4. The gift of exhortation - This gift means to come alongside another in order to comfort, encourage, and advise in biblical truth.

*To "exhort" means to help someone to be strengthened by challenging them to live God's way and to trust in Him to handle life's problems in a biblical manner.

Hebrews 3:12-13 - Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. Heb. 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

*The last three gifts mentioned now have to do with our outreach of the gospel and the work of God in today's world.

5. The gift of giving - Having the ability to give freely and sincerely from what God has blessed us with.

- a. This gift implies that God gives us the ability to accrue finances and things with the spirit of willingness to give some of those blessings to others, with the proper spirit.
- b. The title of giving 10% would be a good starting point, but "grace giving" takes us beyond this point. We, in the Dispensation of Grace, don't believe that we are under the 10% (tithe) method.
- c. "Grace giving" is all about our attitude, our will, our spirit, and love for others in need.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 - Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2Cor. 9:8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

2 Corinthians 8:8 - I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

6. The gift of ruling (leading) - The ruler/leader is gifted to be able to preside before the people and provide a God-honoring leadership.

*He has the ability to guide the church in a faithful and scriptural path. But, he is also accountable for his conduct and to teach sound doctrine for the edification of the saints.

Hebrews 13:7, 17 - Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation. Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

7. The gift of mercy - This means to show compassion and pity to those less fortunate - to have the ability to lift one up with encouragement.

- a. This is a special talent of showing an act of kindness to one who is facing hardships, or just hard times. A great example of this in the Bible is the attitude of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37.
- b. This gift is not to be done with a long face. If one ministers to people who are miserable because of their circumstances in life with a long face, then how could they show "cheerfulness and encouragement" to those in distress. Solomon said this is Proverbs 17:22 - *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

*In verse 9, Paul shows us the fourth operative Grace Principle: "The Grace Motivation Principle" - which is the action of "love",

Romans 12:9 - *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

1. One of the great truths after becoming a believer is how God has implanted love within our hearts. This is what we know as "agape love", which means our love is to be genuine and real - showing true compassion to others.
2. We are to hate evil and detest it when the world's values stain our standards in our lives. We are to break away from sinful things and show grace and love from our renewed minds. Love is also an act of separating.

*You take out the old human viewpoint and put in the divine standards that match God's viewpoint.

3. Love is the ability of a mental attitude that esteems knowledge.

Psalms 97:10 - *Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.*

Romans 12:10 - *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

1. This is when we put others before ourselves. The love described in this verse is different than agape love. This is talking about "brotherly love" - where we get the Greek word *Philadelphia*.
2. As believers, we are to be kind, affection, preferring others before ourselves.

*It is natural to put ourselves first - but it is supernatural to put others first.

Philippians 2:3 - *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

3. A great example of this is in 2 Samuel 9, where it becomes obvious to Jonathan that David was preferred before him and that David, not Jonathan, was God's heir to the throne. Jonathan showed a brotherly love to David and in honor preferred David over himself.

*When David came to the throne, he honored Jonathan by showing Jonathan's unfortunate son the very kindness of God and taking care of him.

Romans 12:11 - *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

1. Paul is not talking about secular business matters, but he is talking about whatever we do in God's service - we use our God-given gift.
2. Spiritual activity, rather than secular activity, is in Paul's mind here.

Romans 12:12 - *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

1. The world knows nothing about hope. Bible hope is the assurance and confidence in what God has promised us.
Titus 2:13 - Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
2. The Christian does not rebel in tribulation and accuse God; but he is patient, knowing God is too wise to make any mistakes.
3. It is our hope that helps us to persevere and not give up, in spite of the difficulties and problems we have in life. If there is a problem, we can always go to prayer.

Romans 12:13 - Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

*We are to have a generosity of heart to help those believers in need. The thought here is to pursue opportunities for showing hospitality for the saints.

*Galatians 6:10 - As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

*Romans 12, verses 14-21 focus on the attitude of the believer, by showing the Christian's personal response to evil. Paul's portrait of the Christian as a brother shows we are to exercise both gift and grace and to become increasingly Christ-like.

Romans 12:14-21 - Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Rom. 12:16 *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Rom. 12:17 Repom-pense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. Rom. 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Rom. 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Rom. 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Rom. 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

*Verse 14 - Love is forgiving: We are not to fight evil, or use the world's methods to fight back - but say something nice to them.

*Verse 15 - Love is identifying with others: We are to share in others' rejoicing and weeping, to identify with the feelings of the other person.

*Verse 16 - Love is for everyone: We are to be gracious and try to understand where the other person is coming from.

*Verse 17 - Love is to never seek revenge: When we are wronged, it is our opportunity to demonstrate that our faith is real.

*Verse 18 - Love is being a peacemaker: This does not mean we are to compromise truth, but do our best to avoid clashes.

*Verse 19 - Love is understanding: God wants us to not take justice, or vengeance, into our own hands. Let God be in charge of paybacks.

*Verse 20 - Love is giving: Instead of avenging the enemy, we are to do good toward them. Let the burning coals become the hurt of shame and remorse of their evil conduct - putting it on their conscience.

*Verse 21 - Love wins!: We are not to be conquered by evil. Doing good not only helps us to defeat the evil in this world, but doing good deeds protect our hearts from getting bitter.