

Study in Romans

Application > Disposition of the Christian > Role of Faith in the Unity of the Body Romans 12:3-8

If you were Paul pleading with God's people to stop letting the philosophies of this age influence their thinking, but instead offer to Him the sacrifice of our outer and inner person (i.e., all that you are) as the only response to His mercy, grace and love that makes any sense, how would you begin the major section in which you help them understand how exactly to do that? It's surprising that the next words to flow from his pen to those he's calling to step away from the world is...humility in our God-given roles in church. But when considering the counter influence he warns about in 12:1-2 (i.e., the world), it makes sense. If the world is the environment of rebellion against God, then God's inoculation to it is an environment of righteousness He calls His church.

It seems that underlying the problems in the world then would be pride, an overestimation of one's worth in relation to others and to God. The church should be the place where Christians are, with the help of God's grace and the faith He provides, learning to think of themselves with an honest evaluation toward using their unique gifting in sacrificial service for the edification of other believers. In this way, we build one another up and spur one another on to act less and less like those in the world and more and more like our example, Jesus.

1. Definition of humility (v. 3; cf. I Tim. 1:12-14 and I Peter 5:5-7)

2. The body: Illustration of unity in diversity (vv. 4-5; cf. I Cor. 12:12-14)

3. A sample of gifts in the body (vv. 6-8)
 - a. Prophecy
 - b. Service
 - c. Teaching
 - d. Encouragement
 - e. Generosity
 - f. Leadership
 - g. Mercy