



Living Sacrifice In The Service Of Christ

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“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 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” (Romans 12:3-8).

Introduction

Character and attitudes matter more than actions and gestures. In a world that often celebrates self-promotion, personal achievement, and individualism, the apostle Paul calls us to a radically different way of living—one shaped by humility, unity, and Spirit-empowered service. In Romans 12:3–8, he reminds us that every believer has been graced by God, gifted by God, and placed within the body of Christ for a divine purpose. No gift is insignificant, no member unnecessary, and no calling without meaning. As we explore this passage together, we will discover how God shapes our attitudes, assigns our roles, and empowers our service so that the Church may flourish and Christ may be glorified. For a quick recap on the epistle to the Romans, note that:

- Romans 1–11 is primarily doctrinal. In these chapters Paul explains mankind's sin, God's righteousness, justification by faith, sanctification, Israel's place in God's redemptive plan, and the riches of God's grace.
- Beginning in Romans 12, Paul changes from **doctrine to duty**, from **belief to behaviour**, and from **our position in Christ to our practice for Christ**.
- Our last study on Romans 12:1–2 calls believers to present themselves as living sacrifices. Our text for this study (verses 3–8) explain what such a surrendered life looks like inside the Church — reflecting the theme of Humility, Unity and Faithful Service in the Body of Christ.

A truly spiritual Christian is not merely someone who prays loudly or possesses great knowledge, but someone who serves faithfully, humbly and lovingly using the gifts God has given. Paul addresses three great truths:

1. We must think humbly about ourselves.
2. We must recognise our place in Christ's body.
3. We must faithfully use God's gifts.

We will consider 5 points in this study:

- 1) THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS HUMILITY (v.3)
- 2) GOD HAS MADE EVERY BELIEVER PART OF ONE BODY (vv.4–5)
- 3) EVERY BELIEVER HAS RECEIVED SPIRITUAL GIFTS (v.6)
- 4) THE CALL TO FAITHFULLY EXERCISE YOUR GIFT (vv.6–8)
- 5) YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO DISCOVER, DEVELOP, AND DEPLOY YOUR GIFT



I. THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS HUMILITY (v.3)

Paul begins with a warning: *“not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly.”* Christian service begins with **humility**, because pride is the great enemy of spiritual usefulness, as indicated in these scriptures:

- **James 4:6** *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”*
- **1 Peter 5:5** *“Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”*

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself **accurately**—“soberly”—in light of God’s grace. John Wesley once said that when he met a truly humble man, he expected to meet someone who had forgotten himself entirely because he was so taken up with Christ. Humility is not self-deprecation; it is Christ-exaltation.

Moses, though a mighty leader, is described in Numbers 12:3 as: *“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.”* Yet God used him powerfully. Humility positions us for divine usefulness.

II. GOD HAS MADE EVERY BELIEVER PART OF ONE BODY (vv.4–5)

God has made every believer part of one body. Paul uses the metaphor of the human body: many parts, one organism—a true model of unity in diversity (i.e. One body, many members). Likewise, the Church is diverse in gifts but united in purpose, as per these scriptures:

- **1 Corinthians 12:12** *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”*
- **Psalms 133:1** *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”*

A choir has sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. If everyone tried to sing the same part, the music would be flat and lifeless. But when each sings their part faithfully, harmony emerges.

In Acts 6 the early church faced tension between groups, yet unity was preserved when each group’s needs were acknowledged and each person’s role was honoured.

III. EVERY BELIEVER HAS RECEIVED SPIRITUAL GIFTS (v.6)

Paul says: *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...”* Spiritual gifts are **grace-gifts**—not earned, not deserved, but given by God for the good of the body. There may be differing gifts, but the same grace.

- **1 Corinthians 12:4** *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”*
- **Ephesians 4:7** *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”*

Think of a toolbox containing a hammer, screwdriver, spanner, saw and measuring tape. None can perform every task. Each has a unique purpose. A hammer cannot do what a screwdriver does, and a saw cannot replace a spanner. Each tool is designed for a specific purpose. The hammer should not envy the screwdriver. The screwdriver should not imitate the saw. Likewise, each believer is uniquely equipped for a particular work.

Bezalel in Exodus 31 was gifted in craftsmanship, not preaching. Yet his Spirit-given skill built the tabernacle. God honours every gift when used faithfully.

IV. THE CALL TO FAITHFULLY EXERCISE YOUR GIFT (vv.6–8)

Paul lists several gifts and attaches a **spirit** or **attitude** that should characterise their use:

1. Prophecy — with proportion of faith

Prophecy must align with the faith - the revealed truth of God.

- **2 Peter 1:21** *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

2. Ministry — with dedication

Service is not glamorous, but it is glorious when done unto Christ.

- **Mark 10:45** *"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Much Kingdom work is accomplished by unseen servants, such as:

- 1) Church cleaners.
- 2) Welcomers.
- 3) Administrators.
- 4) Musicians.
- 5) Technicians.
- 6) Intercessors.
- 7) Hospital visitors.

3. Teaching — with clarity and truth

Teaching must be faithful, accurate, and patient.

- **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. Exhortation — with encouragement

Exhortation lifts the weary and strengthens the fainthearted.

- **Hebrews 10:24–25** *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching".*

5. Giving — with simplicity

Giving should be sincere, without showmanship.

- **Matthew 6:3** *"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."*

6. Ruling — Leadership with diligence

Leadership requires vision, discipline, earnestness, integrity, perseverance and consistency.

- **Proverbs 27:23** *"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds."*

Nehemiah exemplified godly leadership. Despite ridicule, opposition and threats, he completed the wall in 52 days. Lazy leadership weakens the Church, but diligent leadership strengthens it.

7. Mercy — with cheerfulness

Mercy is most powerful when given joyfully, not reluctantly.

- **Jude 22** *"And of some have compassion, making a difference."*



V. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO DISCOVER, DEVELOP, AND DEPLOY YOUR GIFT

1. Discover your gift

Ask God to reveal your place in the body. Often your gift aligns with your burden, passion, or natural inclination.

2. Develop your gift

Gifts grow with use. A musician improves by practice; a teacher improves by study; a giver grows by generosity.

3. Deploy your gift

The Church is healthiest when every member serves. Unused gifts weaken the body; active gifts strengthen it.

In conclusion, Romans 12:3–8 calls us to humility, unity, and faithful service. The Church thrives and come alive in grace, when each believer embraces their God-given role. Let us therefore:

- Think soberly
- Serve faithfully
- Love cheerfully
- And glorify Christ together as one body.