

# XII

## Humility, Unity, and Diversity

### ROMANS 12:3–6

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

<sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

READ | ROMANS 12:3–6

## THINK ABOUT

Writing to Christians in the local churches of Rome, Paul thought it important for this diverse group Jew and Gentile believers to understand their relationship with each other because of their membership within the body of Christ. As such, each member is an important part of this community; each has received gifts graciously to be used within and for the benefit of the whole. (See 1 Corinthians 12:1–31, 14:26, and Ephesians 4:7–16.)

These believers were called to a biblical understanding of the gifts given them, so they would not become like the believers at Corinth who used their gifts to compete against instead of complementing each other. A biblical view requires the understanding of their diversity and the need for humility in the exercise of gifts — all of which should be done in a manner that promotes, encourages, and facilitates unity within the body.

## APPLY

Many of us struggle with selfishness at some juncture of our lives. Our “flesh” pushes us to the destructive path of competing with other believers and vying for superiority. This quest normally leads to broken relationships and disunity. We must fight against this temptation if we want to honor God in the exercise of our spiritual gifts.

The Spirit of God has given gifts to every believer. Instead of competing with each other, we honor Christ best when we complement each other in the work of ministry.

ASK

God intentionally and strategically gives gifts to all believers. What gifts do you have? List two or three of them below. (See 1 Corinthians 12.)

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Spiritual gifts are given to the Church for two primary reasons. What are those two reasons? (See Ephesians 4:12.)

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Of all the gifts, describe one that God has used to mature you through a discipler.

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Describe how you are using your gifts within your church. How can you recognize and celebrate the gifts of others that perhaps you were not given?

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PRAY

*Lord, thank You for saving and bringing us into the community of faith. As we enjoy the privileges of this community, help us to understand our responsibilities and to use the gifts given to build up Your Church.*

*Forgive us for abusing at times or not using the gifts given according to Your plans. Help us to be more faithful by using our gifts to serve in our local church and to disciple others.*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4–7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

## EPHESIANS 4:11–16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.




SING

“If We Are the Body” — *Casting Crowns*





A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a light blue ceramic mug filled with dark coffee. The person is wearing a dark blue sweater and is sitting on a pink, textured blanket. The background is a grey, textured fabric. The lighting is soft and natural, creating a warm and cozy atmosphere.

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EPHESIANS 4:15-16

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