

January 2, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Romans 12:3-8

“The Local Church Part Sixteen: **Ministry** in the Church, Part One”

1. Humility (Transformed Mind / Responding to God’s Mercy) & _____ (v. 3)
 - Grace
 - Think, think more highly, think, sound judgment
 - Measure of faith
2. Humility (Transformed Mind / Responding to God’s Mercy) & _____ (v. 4-5)
 - Members, members, members
 - One body
 - Different functions
 - Members one of another
3. Humility (Transformed Mind / Responding to God’s Mercy) & _____ _____ (v. 6-8)
 - a. _____ your gift
 - b. _____ your gift
 1. Prophecy ... analogy of the faith
 2. Service ... serving
 3. Teaches ... teaching
 4. Exhorts ... exhortation
 5. Gives ... with liberality
 6. Leads ... with diligence
 7. Shows mercy ... with cheerfulness

Discussion Questions:

1. What specific changes did you make in your lifestyle this past week as a result of studying Romans 12:1-2? Are those changes commensurate with the fact that God is AWESOME? Do they demonstrate to the world that God is MERCIFUL? Give examples.
2. What is the connection between Romans 12:1-2 and Romans 12:3ff? How does a deep understanding of God's mercy impact the way you read v. 12ff? How does being transformed by the renewing of our minds connect with the "think" statements in v. 3? In other words, how does "doctrine" influence our "duty"?
3. What are some definitions for "humility"? What is your definition of humility? How does a deep understanding of God's mercy and sovereignty in salvation help us grow in humility? Give specific examples of how meditating upon God's mercy and sovereignty has helped you be more humble. Or give specific examples of how meditating upon your supposed sovereignty and great accomplished took away humility.
4. Has everyone been given the exact same gift and faith to use that gift? If not, why would God give different gifts and faith to use those gifts to different people? (Read 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 2:10; Eph. 4:11ff. Also think through the analogy of the body and different body parts in the body.)
5. What does the word "interdependence" mean? How does that apply to the local church? What "worldly thinking" would hinder us from experiencing interdependence in the local church? What biblical thinking would help us experience interdependence in the local church? How does the analogy of the body help?
6. What is your spiritual gift? How do you know? Have you seen fruit in exercising it? Have others confirmed it as a gift from God? What are you doing to develop that gift? Where specifically are you exercising that gift in the local church at this time? If you are not, where will you begin exercising that gift this week?
7. Why does Paul connect "analogy of the faith" with prophecy? What does this mean? Why is this important? (See Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 1 John 4:1)
8. What does it mean to give with "liberality" (sincerity, holiness, simplicity, single-mindedness)? (See 2 Cor. 8:2; 9:11, 13) Why is this attitude toward giving important? What might be some worldly thoughts about giving?
9. Why is it important to show mercy with "cheerfulness"? What are some worldly attitudes toward showing mercy? What was Jesus' attitude toward showing us mercy? (See Heb. 12:2)

[Answers to blanks: Dependence; Interdependence; Spiritual Gifts; Discover; Exercise]