

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound thinking, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

(Romans 12:3-5)

Overview: Romans 12

- nearly all the concrete instances of the transformed life, which approves and practices the will of God, are in relationship to others in the church

Sound Thinking

1. Pride: Our Natural Tendency

- we are constantly tempted to have an exaggerated view of ourselves in relation to others
- we are never commanded to think “more highly” of ourselves or to not think “too low” of ourselves

Sound Thinking

2. Sound Thinking: Our Needed Remedy

- a true and objective estimate of ourselves in relation to others in the light of the gospel
- a recognition that each of us has been given by God a measure of faith for the good of the body

Sound Thinking

3. Diversity in Unity: Our New Identity

- *the imagery of the human body brings out the unity and diversity of the Christian community*

¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a *part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a *part* of the body.

¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a *part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a *part* of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

(1 Corinthians 12:14-21)

Sound Thinking

3. Diversity in Unity: Our New Identity

- the unity of "the body" (the church) is created "in Christ" – it is supernatural and radical
- we mutually share in and benefit from the diversity of gifts of each member

Are you a "member" of the body of Christ?