

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy and pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable worship.

<sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

<sup>6</sup>Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *let each of us exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

<sup>7</sup>if service, in his serving; or if one teaches, in his teaching;

<sup>8</sup>or if one exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with sincerity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

(Romans 12:1-8)

## Different Gifts, One Body

Romans 12:6-8

### Overview: Romans 12

- our personal response to the mercy of God is lived out primarily in the context of the local church – *concrete instances of the transformed life*
- our new, fundamental identity: many members in one body (diversity in unity)

### Different Gifts, One Body

#### 1. A Stewardship of Grace

- our differing gifts are the product of God's grace (c.f. 1 Peter 4:10)
- each member is to diligently and faithfully use his or her gifts to strengthen the body

## Different Gifts, One Body

### 2. A Variety of Gifts

- this list is not meant to be exhaustive
- these gifts overlap and are not rigidly defined
- several of these gifts overlap with the expected activity of all Christians

## Different Gifts, One Body

### 2. A Variety of Gifts

- *prophecy* – proclaiming information as a result of a particular revelation (directed to a specific situation)
- *teaching* – expounding the meaning of what has been revealed (the apostolic gospel)
- *exhortation* – speaking that urges Christians to live out the truth of the gospel
- *service* – meeting the practical, ordinary needs of the body (physical, material)

## Different Gifts, One Body

### 2. A Variety of Gifts

- *giving* – sharing one's own goods with others; it is to be done with sincerity (no ulterior motive)
- *ruling* – spiritual leaders in the church (elders); it must be exercised with eagerness and diligence
- *showing mercy* – specific acts of care for those in any need; to be done with cheerfulness

<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:10-11)