

Unity in the Body of Christ Part 2

Romans 12:3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Most pastors would use this passage to tell us that there is one big church that covers the whole world. And even that it covered all of time.

That the church began with Adam and Eve and then down to the present time.

That ultimately that it includes all the saved of all the ages.

But is that what Paul is saying?

Is Paul saying that the church at Rome is just a part of the big church along with the Ephesians and the church at Philippi and Jerusalem? No.

What good would that do for them.

I have included an article how the churches of China are being systematically destroyed by the government and that pastors and other leaders are being put in jail.

Were you aware of that? I mean if we are all one big body you could not help know that right?

For regardless of how big a body is, pain in one part will affect the entire body.

It is obvious that he is speaking to the saints in a particular area, Rome.

And that he is encouraging them to serve one another with the ministry that God has given each one of them.

So for purpose of our sermon this morning we are going to come at this from the obvious point of view that Paul is writing to the saints at Rome who constituted the church there.

- I. For as we have many members in one body
 - A. Here Paul uses the human body to illustrate the connection of the believers at Rome.
 - 1. The human body has many major parts and hundreds and thousands of smaller parts.
 - 2. There are some parts that we can live without and some we cannot.

3. Most parts we utilize every day and others that we never even think of.
- B. Paul spoke these same things to the church at Corinth.
1. 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 (NKJV)
 2. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.
 3. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
 4. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
 5. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing?
 6. If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?
 7. 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
 8. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?
 9. 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.
 10. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
 11. 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need.
 12. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,
 13. 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
 14. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
 15. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

II. But all the members do not have the same function

- A. Now you see why he leads into this part with an exhortation to humility.
1. Everyone longs for significance, to be esteemed among those we care about.
 2. But we cannot all do the same thing.
 3. In the church it takes any number of people, duties to make it work.

- III. So we, being many, are one body in Christ
 - A. Everywhere you find a congregation you will find one of the bodies of Christ.
 - B. One person could not be the body of Christ.
 - 1. It takes many to do all that the church is called to do.
 - 2. There is ministry enough to go around, but we cannot all do the same thing.
 - 3. Have you ever seen that group of children that regardless of the number of toys available they all want to play with the same toy at the same time.
- IV. And individually members of one another.
 - A. But another thing to consider here is that if we are all members of the same body, then we are members of one another.
 - B. The hand is connected to the arm.
 - C. The fingers are connected to the hand.
 - D. The arm is connected to the shoulder.
 - E. So ultimately we are all connected to one another.
 - 1. With this Paul begins to finish his letter to the Romans.
 - 2. And over the next few chapters he gives very practical instructions on how we should treat one another.
 - 3. But in all of this remember that to injure a fellow church member is to injure yourself.
 - 4. Because we are all connected in the body of Christ.