

ROMANS: PART 76  
OCTOBER 12, 1997

The Consecrated Christian's New View of Himself

*Taking Stock*

Romans 12:3-8

**The Context of Rom 12:3-8**

1. Renew your mind (Vs 2) - *think* (φρονεω) correctly about yourself (vs. 3)
2. Present your body to God (Vs 1) - present your *gifted-self* to His body/Church (vs. 6-8)
3. Do this because of His mercies (Vs 1) - Do this because of His *grace!* (Vs 3,6)

**The Command: Get A Correct View of Yourself: Rom 12:3**

1. The basis of Paul's command is God's grace rather than his bare authority as an Apostle.
  - ◆ *Through the grace given to me* (Cf. Vs 6). His focus is *grace*.
  - ◆ IE. I'm in my place serving His body, are you? This is a wonderful gift & blessing
2. The negative part of this command:
  - ◆ *Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought to think*
  - ◆ Do not have an inflated view of yourself: No place for pride, arrogance, individuality
  - ◆ Do not have a falsely humble view of yourself either. This is just pride in another form.
3. The positive part of this command:
  - ◆ *But think so have to have sound judgment*
  - ◆ Have an accurate view of who you really: You have needs & you are needed

**The First Reason Behind This Command -- the nature of faith. Rom 12:3b.**

*God has allotted to each a measure of faith*

1. Every Christian has only a *measure* of faith. No one has faith w/out measure. None is perfect
2. Every Christian has faith, therefore each is useful
3. Every Christian has faith from God, therefore ea. is a token of His grace & valuable to Him
4. Every Christian has a *measure* of faith. Different believers have varying amounts of faith

**The Second Reason Behind This Command -- the nature of the body. Rom 12:4-5.**

You are one of many members in Christ's body

1. Just as the human body has unity & diversity so does the body of Christ
2. We are joined to each other by our common union with Christ, thus we *need* each other
3. We have *different functions* (IE gifts), thus each of us has something to *contribute*

**The Application of This Command. Rom 12:6-8**

1. There is no place for the pride of individuality -- "I won't serve" or "I don't need anyone"
2. There is no place for the pride of comparison -- "I am better than you & don't need you"
3. There is no place for the pride of false-humility - "I have nothing to offer, I'm not like so & so"
4. Because (by God's grace) each of us has a different measure of faith & different function, because each of us has needs & is gifted to help other fellow-believers in need, then
  - ◆ if your gift is prophecy, use it according to the faith you have.
  - ◆ if your gift is service, use it according to the faith you have.
  - ◆ if your gift is teaching, use it according to the faith you have.
  - ◆ if your gift is exhortation, use it according to the faith you have.
5. Individuals who have this sober judgment of themselves can do such things as give, lead, and show mercy with the attitude of liberality, diligence, and cheerfulness (instead of doing it with pride)