

Romans 12:3-5

Every Man in Christ

1. 12:3 – Grace Given to Paul

- a. *“For I say,”* – Paul’s authority as the apostle of grace / of Gentiles. Rom 1:5, 11:13
- b. *“grace given unto me”* - dispensation of grace: Rom 15:15, 1Co 3:10, Gal 2:9, Eph 3:2, 7-8
- c. It was given to him to establish the new creature, the Body of Christ, to dispense grace.
- d. *“to every man that is among you”* - He has spoken to Jews (2:17, 3:9), law keepers (7:1), Gentiles (11:13), but now to all in Rome, Jew or Gentile - Rom 1:7, 13

2. Thinking of Yourself

- a. 12:1) Give up your body, 12:2) Give up your will, 12:3) now, not to think of yourself ...
- b. Flesh retorts: *“You can’t tell me how to think!”* (Which is why he states his authority)
- c. World rebels: *“My body, my choice, my life!”* *“I am special, I deserve, high self-esteem”*
- d. Selfish ~*def.* Caring for your own interest, benefit, welfare above or without others.
- e. Grace gives God’s riches/liberty to sinners (undeserving), so they can serve others Gal 5:13
- f. Grace teaches the selfless mind of Christ (low self-esteem?) - Phi 2:2-5, 8, 20-21, 30
- g. Better than esteeming self is esteeming God; proving God right more than your rights; pursuing His wisdom/worth instead of self-worth; knowing God’s love instead of self-love

3. Think Soberly

- a. *“himself more highly than he ought”* - Grace withstands pride. How?
 - i. Your position is because of God’s mercy not your worth - Rom 11:18, 1Tim 1:15-16
 - ii. Grace excludes boasting because it’s freely given by faith - Rom 3:27, Eph 2:9
 - iii. Grace is given to sinners; you are not righteous - Gal 6:3-5
 - iv. Grace is given to all; you are not different, you received it - 1 Cor 4:6
- b. *“soberly”* - The uncommon sense of a sound mind, level head, in control - 1 Cor 9:19, 26-27
- c. Our presentation not to be overcome by boasting, passion, emotion; wild. Titus 1:7-10
- d. How high ought you think of yourself? As a member of the Body of Christ; Christ the Head.

4. The Measure of Faith

- a. *“according as God hath dealt to every man”* - not just you, everyone gets it (sober up).
 - i. Faith is not limited to one person, people, nation, sinner. It is for many - Rom 5:1,15
- b. *“the measure of faith”* – That is, given grace through faith, not merits or works.
 - i. Not God giving you faith (except through the means of his word – Rom 10:17)
 - ii. Not God measuring how much faith each person gets in a cup, unevenly distributed
- c. The measure itself is faith, not flesh, works, wealth, ability, duty, gender, wealth (sober up)
- d. What God gives to you is for every man to profit (sober up) 1 Cor 12:7, Eph 4:12

5. 12:4-5 - Many Members, One Body

- a. v4 the human body having different parts with different duties. Each part serves the body.
- b. v5 - *“we, being many”* - All with faith in Christ, are many members of Christ. 1Cor 12:12-14
- c. *“one body in Christ”* - The mystery doctrine unique to Paul of the Body (not a tree) -Eph 3:6
- d. God ordained marriage, families, nations, and now he ordains a Body church.
- e. Christ is one, the body is one, even with different offices/gifts - Eph 4:4-6
- f. If we are members of each other, then we live to serve the whole body, not ourselves.