

Romans 12:11-16

In All Things

The context: Presenting our bodies in service (12:1) ... by the renewal of our mind (12:2) ... as members one of another in the body of Christ (12:3-5).

1. 12:11 – In Labor

- a. Grace teaches us to do good works - Eph 2:10, Titus 2:7-12, Titus 3:8, Col 3:17
- b. *“Not slothful in business”* - Work is good & godly, be productive, not idle/lazy for the Lord
 - i. Business ~def. What occupies your time; what you do, duty (unrelated to payment)
 - ii. People use religious pious reasons not to work - 1Th 4:11-12, 2Th 3:6, 10-15, 1Ti 3:7
 - iii. Definition of idle matches the popular idea of retirement (do nothing) - 1Tim 5:6,13
 - iv. What should the rich do? Not nothing. Seek purpose not self-pleasure - 1Tim 6:18
- c. *“fervent in spirit”* - Spiritual apathy and indifference are here discarded. Gal 4:17-18
 - i. Fervent ~def. To be hot; eager, enthusiastic interest. To be lit up. Religious. Pr 20:27
- d. *“serving the Lord”* – All our labor is as His servants – Col 3:22-24, 1 Tim 6:1-3, 1Tim 4:10
 - i. There is plenty of work to do in the service of the Body of Christ – Rom 12:1

2. 12:12 – In Suffering

- a. *“Rejoicing in hope”* - When suffering happens, know your hope - Rom 5:2,8:18, Eph 1:18,3:16
 - i. Our hope is due to the great mystery of Christ in us - Col 1:27
 - ii. To rejoice is a reasonable service from a renewed mind -
- b. *“patience in tribulation”* - Made possible by our hope and God’s love - Rom 8:25, 5:3-6
 - i. It is a righteous service to show patience - 2 Cor 12:12, 6:4-5, 1 Tim 3:3
 - ii. Patience results from being strengthened by the Lord - Col 1:11
- c. *“continuing instant in prayer”* – Instant ~def. A present priority, urgent necessity. 1Th 5:17
 - i. Non-instant = “get around to it”, “will do it later”, “not a good time”, unnecessary.
 - ii. Without faithful prayer, hope dies, and we live full of care, impatient, in suffering.

3. 12:13 – In Need

- a. *“distributing to...”* - Distribution is from the rich to the poor (Share? Be ready?)
 - i. Christians studying righteous distribution advanced free market economics.
 - ii. Distribution functions here according to grace (2 Cor 9:5-13) not kingdom Mt 19:21
 - iii. *“the necessity of saints”* - Not whatever/whoever demands, but judge necessity.
- b. *“given to hospitality”* - Generosity a Biblical virtue, but more so under grace and to saints.
 - i. Consider the laws this nullifies by having all members of one body - Gal 3:28

4. 12:14 – In Persecution

- a. *“bless them that persecute you”* - As old as Job 31:29-30, also Lk 6:44, what differs?
 - i. This looks different, as members of one another in the Body of Christ.
 - ii. Bless ~def. To wish well and good, as according to Rom 5:8, 1 Tim 2:4, Eph 4:32
 - iii. Because of grace of Christ we understand how we ought not curse - Gal 3:13
 - iv. Christian martyrs following Christ’s suffering/death have changed the world.

5. 12:15 – In Their Joy and Sorrow

- a. Instead of envy, jealousy, competition, we are members one of another - 1 Cor 12:25-26
- b. Even when other men preach of envy and strife, Paul rejoices - Phi 1:18
- c. We rejoice and weep over the things of Christ, not the flesh – Phi 3:18
- d. As members of one another, we have the same care, the same joy - Phi 2:2-4,17-18, 4:10

6. 12:16 – In Every State

- a. *“Be of the same mind...”* – In one body, we can have one mind - 1 Cor 1:10, Phi 2:2, 4:2
- b. *“mind not high things”* -When life is in pursuit of high things, we look down on others.
- c. *“condescend to men of low estate”* - for their good and yours, humble - Phi 2:3,5,8
- d. In whatsoever state, high or low, Paul learned to be content in the body - Phi 4:11-12
- e. When your mind is renewed, you can do all things through Christ - Phi 4:13
- f. As members of the same Body of Christ, we can have the mind of Christ – which produces what the law could not– the same care, the same mind, toward one another.