

Where Transformation Leads

Romans 12.3-8

Transformation Leads to Humility

- Not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less ~ Rick Warren
- Danger: think too highly of yourself
 - Accomplishments, pedigree, gifts, family tree, prestige, authority, power, network
- Danger: think too highly of your shame
 - It's not "sober judgment" because we think that we know better what to think about ourselves than God does
- God's standard is the only standard – 1 Corinthians 4.1-4
 - You are way worse than you think – keeps us aware
 - You are more loved than you can imagine – keeps us secure
 - Reckoning ourselves as such comes from the renewed mind – back to Bible and prayer

Humility Leads to Ministry

- We are united – speaks to relationship
 - Not uniformity!
 - Yes – we really do belong to one another – I am my brother's keeper
 - I join in something larger than myself
- We are unified – speaks to purpose
 - Not uniformity!
- Gifts are for ministry
 - They are not for showing off
 - They are not a mark of spiritual maturity
 - They are to be used – Ephesians 2.10

Prophecy – timely insights from God

- We don't speak about what we don't experience (it's not about us)

Service – work we do on behalf of others to the glory of God

- Do it in accordance with its nature – no bragging or griping
- Doesn't mean we aren't all called to serve at some point

Teaching – passing on the truth of God's Word

- Not disseminating information but doling out treasures
- "What a great teacher?" OR "What a great truth?"

Encouragement – live out the truth of the Gospel

- Cheering people on to do what is right

- If teaching helps us know what is right, exhortation inspires us to do what is right

Giving – sacrificial sharing for the glory of God

- Different than disciplined giving
- Doesn't require great resources, though they often accompany it
- R.G. LeTourneau

Leading – directional influence

- Doing so with zeal and energy because passion breeds passion

Mercy – demonstrating God's kindness

- Cheerfulness because it can be exhausting or infuriating

Which of these does our world not need right now?

- The gifts aren't just for the church but for the Kingdom to be extended

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who are people you think of when you think of humility? Why? What do they do to exhibit that humility? How magnetic is that quality to you (and to others)?
2. Reread 1 Corinthians 4.1-4. What keeps us from judging ourselves or being judged by others? By what standard will that judgment come? What kind of emotion does that produce in Paul?
3. Out of the 7 gifts mentioned above (and in the passage from Romans 12), which do you think our church needs most? Which do you think our world needs most? Why?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12.8-10 (another list of spiritual gifts). Out of the ones that are listed there and in Romans 12, which would you identify as your primary gift? What would someone close to you (spouse, child, parent) say?
5. How can the gift you have be used in our church? How can it be deployed for ministry in the world?