

The Divine Call to Every-Person Ministry

Rom. 12:3-8

Part 4

In Romans 12:1ff, Paul gives us the foundation of Christian ministry which is:

1. Denial of self is essential for Christian service ("offer your bodies as a living sacrifice") (12:1)
2. We are to develop in the Spirit, a biblical mindset ("be transformed") (12:2)
3. Obedience will then result in our being able to "discern what is the will of God" (12:2)

Then, Paul begins to address the "gifts of the Spirit", and states that,

4. Only in understanding the gospel ("the mercies of God") is there protection from the curse of an exaggerated self-image about our giftedness (12:3).

Then Paul turns to,

5. The "Body" analogy by which Paul teaches that every Christian through being "Baptised into the "Body of Christ" (saved) has a spiritual gift.

1. The one "Body of Christ" (Rom.12:4-5)

1. There is one "Body of Christ" (the church), which is universal (Eph.4:4-5)

2. The universal church is made up of local churches (Col.4:16)

3. To the local church in Corinth, Paul says

4. God in His grace, determines and appoints every Christian to a function in the Body of Christ (Rom.12:3,6; 1Cor.12:7,11; Eph.4:7)

1. The bestowal of the gifts are completely determined by God (1Cor.12:11)

2. Notice that the whole of the Godhead is involved in the bestowal of the gifts (1Cor.12:4-6)

3. The basis on which they are bestowed (1Cor.12:4)

4. God has called every Christian to fulfil a specific function in the Body of Christ

1. Our job is to discover what our role is, and do what God has called us to do, and stick at it

2. We are not to covet what God has not intended for us

Illustration from Corinth

5. Each of us is vitally connected to the other parts of the Body of Christ (Rom.12:5; 1Cor.12:25-26)

1. Our membership of the Body of Christ is not due to some human organizational management system

2. Christians cannot grow unless there is commitment to the local church

3. Christians cannot grow unless they utilize their gifts (Eph.4:11-12)

4. Christians cannot grow unless they develop their gifts (Rom.12:6-8)

5. Exercising our gifts gives us pleasure in serving God, and He takes delight in our works (Matt.26:6-10,13)

"While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on His head as He was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor. Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me"...I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her" (Matt.26:6-10,13)

Conclusion: Body—responsibility (Rom. 12:6-8; Matthew 25:14-30)

1. The reason for the parable (Matthew 25:14-30)

2. To whom does the Master (Christ) leave a mandate (Matt.25:14,19,21,23,26,30)

3. What does the Master (Christ) do before he leaves?

4. What is the nature of the talents?

5. What does the Master (Christ) require from us?

6. What does the master do when he returns?

7. The outcome of the evaluation

1. Reward

2. Judgment