

The Divine Call to Every-Person Ministry

Rom. 12:14-21

Summary

Paul lists the "gifts of the Spirit" in Romans; 1Corinthians and Ephesians.

1. First:

We considered the "gifts of the Spirit" and their potential for pride

2. Second:

We considered the "Body of Christ" analogy with its different organs, and how this effectively counters pride

3. Third:

We considered the relationship between the "gifts of the Spirit" and the "fruit of the Spirit."

- We saw that the "supernatural gifts" are not proof on being a Christian, nor are they proof of being a "Spirit filled Christian."
The "gifts of the Spirit" can only function properly, as they are the servants of love (fruit).
- Love is not an isolated element of "the fruit of the Spirit." Rather, it is the mother of all the other fruit. And, of critical importance, love is fundamental to the essence of the relationship between the three Members of the Trinity; in whose image humanity has been created.
- The central message of the Bible is relationships. We are in or out of a relationship with God. And, because of our natural fallen nature, the only means whereby a person may have a relationship with God, is through the gospel of Jesus Christ which constitutes God's great disclosure of love for humanity.
At the rebirth (through the Spirit), we receive the Holy Spirit, and He works in and through us by continually empowering us to have restored relationships through love. Grieving the Spirit through sin, stunts our relational growth (Eph.4:30-32)—sin is the enemy of love (relationships)

1. Introduction

1. Rom.12:9-13: These verses address the nature of Christian conduct within the Christian family

2. Rom.12:14-21: In these verses, Paul addresses the nature of Christian conduct in relation to an unbelieving and hostile world.

2. The theme of Rom.12:14-21 (Rom.12:21)

3. The structure of the passage (Rom.12:14-21)

1. The do "this" and not "that" contrast (Rom.12:14,16,17,19,21)

2. Do "this" and not "that" implied (Rom.12:15,18,20)

4. The fundamental nature of the problem (Rom.12:21,16b,c)

1. The command is mentioned twice in one verse for emphasis (12:16b)

2. Pride, is highlighted as a key principle operating within all of humanity since the fall (Gen.3)

5. The natural response of our being self-oriented (12:14-21)

6. The reality check of the Christian perspective when dealing with the non-Christian world

1. All of humanity is made in the image of God and of value to God

2. We are to understand that the non-Christian world is spiritually dead and in bondage to the world the flesh and the devil (Eph.2:1-3; 1Cor.2:14)

3. Pride: A particularly sensitive area of our person

4. The "gold standard" for our conduct is God Himself

1. All of life is under His control

2. Our lives are to be under His control

3. To be controlled by Him is to submit to Him (Mk.8:34)

4. The means whereby we overcome evil with good (12:21b)

5. Our goal is the honour of God and not the protection of our pride

Conclusion