

Title: Each For All and All For Each

Text: Romans 12:3-8

Take your Bibles, please, and let's turn to Romans chapter 12. The book of Romans chapter 12 beginning with Vs 3. Our subject this morning: EACH FOR ALL AND ALL FOR EACH...

(Read Romans 12:3-8)

Prayer

Last Sunday we began this wonderful fourth section of Romans. We are looking at the (4A) APPLICATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. How do we apply those four principles of ~~God's righteousness~~ (condemnation, justification, sanctification, and security) to our lives? How do we do that?

Well, the answer is found here in Romans chapter 12 through 16. These chapters deal with the APPLICATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(1B) And first of all, we are looking at the righteousness of God as it is demonstrated in our Christian duties. We have certain duties or responsibilities, if we really want to experience the application of God's righteousness.

(1C) And our first duty concerned our commitment to God. We looked at this last Sunday.

(2C) Now, today, I want to come to our second duty or responsibility. And that is our COMMITMENT TO OTHERS WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Did you know that when you are committed to God, it is going to effect your ministry to others? Do you know why some folks can not get along with others within the church? They have not faced the issue of their commitment to God, ~~in Romans 12:1 and 2~~

Do you know why God doesn't use some folks to bless the life of another believer? Because they are not committed to God as Romans 12 verses 1 and 2 indicates. This is all related together.

So, let's look at and understand this commitment that God wants us to have toward one another.

~~Topic: *[scribble]*~~

(11) -2-

Text: Romans 12:3-8

~~(15) Now, the second thing that I would like you to notice in Vs 3-8 is in our living for Christ is in our commitment to others in the body of Christ. (Vs 3-8)~~

~~Did you know that when you are committed to God, it is going to effect your ministry to others? Do you know why some people do not see their spiritual gifts because they have never found God? Do you know why God doesn't use you to bless the life of another believer? Because you are not committed to God as Romans 12:1 and 2 indicate. This is all related together. Now, let's look at this commitment to others.~~

*the issue of commitment*

*Others*

(1D) First of all, in Vs 3 notice your attitude towards yourself. It is important to have the right attitude about how God wants to use you.

Paul says in Vs 3 "For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think ~~like~~ so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."

*Paul is* He is not speaking here about pride ~~per say~~. *and our abilities* ~~what he is talking about~~

~~is spiritual gifts.~~ He is saying, "Listen, God gives you the ability to ministry." So, *Paul* he is warning us not to think that we are so great just because we have a little talent. *Our* ~~our~~ ability to minister to others is a result of God's grace.

What kind of attitude do you have? Do you understand that God has given you the ability to ministry to another ~~believer~~? You see, the point is that every believer *shall* ~~can~~ minister to *Other* ~~another~~ believers.

(2D) Now, the second thing that I would like you to notice in Vs 4 and 5 involves your acceptance of other members of the ~~body~~. Your acceptance of other members of the body of Christ. There are two things here that I want you to ~~see~~ *get a hold of*

(1E) First of all, according to Vs 4 there is a difference in ministry. Vs 4 says "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function." ~~our~~ *church* ~~the word means~~ *We all haven't been called to do the same thing* ~~ministry~~. All of us are not the same. Now, aren't you glad of that?

I mean, just look down your row and think: MAN, IF EVERYONE DID THE SAME THING. BOY! THAT WOULD GET PRETTY PORING, RIGHT?

Everyone of us is different. Praise God. And everyone of us has a different ministry within the body of Christ.

(2E) So, we all have a different ministry. But, secondly, WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST

Vs 5 says, "so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually membaers one of another."

Now, why do we need that instruction at this point? Because you cannot live separately from another member of the church. You cannot do it. Now, many folks think they can. Many try to isolate themselves from other members of the church. And if you have, let me tell you, you will be an unhappy camper. That is right. The Bible says that Jesus did not come to be ministered unto, but, to minister. And to give His life a ransom for many. And God has given that minister to us. A lot of dear folks are waiting for someone to minister to them. They come to church and they say: "I <sup>am</sup> ~~am~~ waiting for someone to talk to me." And that is why you are not getting it.

Do you understand? When you minister to some other people you always get ministered unto.....Every time.....It is just a matter of getting things \* in the right perspective. Jesus said; "Blessed are those who show mercy, for they shall receive mercy."

Everyone of us has a ministry to perform. And we are all members one to another. Do you know that you are needed? YOU ARE. Why, you might be seating right next to a person who desperately needs the spiritual ministry that you have to give.

Now Q.K. if that is true, how can we minister to one another? You see, we are all one with another. Each for all, and all for each. And we are all tied together whether we like it or not. Even though you may not like it, it is true. Even though you think that Mr. so and so is wrong, or, Mrs. so and so's hair is not right. Whatever it is, we are still one in the body of Christ. And God wants to us you to minister to others. ~~SO HOW DO WE MINISTER TO~~

(3D) So, how do we do that? Answer: by using our spiritual gift. And that is the third thing that I want you to notice about our commitment to others. We minister to others, dear friends, when we apply our spiritual gift. All of this is found in verses 6 thru 8.

Now, please notice that there are seven spiritual gifts listed, of which six of them are for the church today. According to I Corinthians chapter 12, each member of the church has been given, by God, a spiritual gift. And that gift is to be used in your minister with others within the body of Christ. You see, God doesn't give you a gift for your own personal use. He gives you a gift so that it maybe used to minister to others within the church. So, let's look at these gifts.

(1E) The first gift, I personally do not believe is for the church today. And that is the word of prophecy. Vs 6 says.. "if prophecy, according to the proportion of (literally) THE FAITH.

The word "proportion" means "standard" or "rule." According to the standard of "THE FAITH." When ever you have the phrase "THE FAITH", it is referring to "the sum total of all truth" that is to be believed. And of course the sum total of all truth that is to be belived is found in the WORD OF GOD. In fact, it is the Word of God.

Now, the point is: when you prophecy, he says, make sure that you are doing so according to the standard of the truth that is to be believed.

WHY DOES HE SAY THAT? He is warning us against false prophecy. True prophecy always tells us what is God's Word and His truth.

Now, the sum total of prophecy is now found in the Word of God. I Cor 13:8  
Therefore, there is no longer any futher need of that particular gift. If you would like further insight, I would suggest that you come to the evening service, where I am doing a detailed study on SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

~~But~~, the next six spiritual gifts that Paul mentions are all definitely a part of your ministry in the body of Christ today. And every one of us have, at least, one of the following gifts.

(2E. you may have ~~we have the spiritual gift of service or ministering.~~ Vs 7 says, "if service, in his serving.

and

If you would like ~~farther insight, I would suggest that you read the~~  
~~book entitled "SPIRITUAL GIFTS?" It is written by Dr. David Hookings.~~  
~~Now, the next six spiritual gifts that Paul mentions are all a part of~~  
~~our ministry. And part of the body of Christ today.~~

~~Secondly, we have the spiritual gift of service or ministering. Vs 7~~  
~~says, "is service, or ministering."~~

Now, what is it to serve ~~or minister~~? What does that mean? *The Bible says* ~~that~~ all  
of us are to serve one another. <sup>So,</sup> What is this special spiritual gift of  
serving, ~~or ministering~~?

I found only one example that would give us some insight. Will you  
turn to Acts chapter 6. Acts chapter 6 verses 1 and 2. This is the account  
of the choosing of the seven deacons. There was a disput that was going on  
among the christians. Some complaints among the Hellenistic Jews and Hebrews  
over the care of widows. Acts chapter 6 beginning with vs 1...

"Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint  
arose on the part of the Helenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because  
their widows were being overlooked in the daily..WHAT?"".....WHAT DOES IT SAY?  
"SERVING" (KI says "ADMINISTRATION")...

Now, that is the same word used in Romans 12:6. It is the same Greek  
word. O.K. notice Vs 2...."And the twelve summoned the congregation of the  
disciples and said,'It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God  
in order to serve tables."

He is not talking about provideing dinner. The word "tables" here is  
an economic term. It is refering to handling money.

The word "serve" is ~~the same word~~ *means to serve or ministr* "ministry."

So, I notice the example in Acts 6:1 and 2, in the early life of the  
church, the gift of ~~ministering~~ *servng* was handling the funds or the money in the  
care of widows who were in need.

In other words, support ministries were involved. And a spiritual gift  
was given. That is a beautiful thing. *AND There are many applications*

Now, come back to Romans 12....

*OF that principle in the life of modern*

(3E) The third spiritual gift is the gift of teaching. Vs 7 says, "he who teaches, in his teaching," or, "in THE TEACHING."

Now, the first word "teaches" is refering to the "teacher." The second word is refering to "the content." Now, let me expalin this.

If you have the spiritual gift of teaching, that doesn't mean you can use it in teaching Biology. <sup>or history</sup> That is not what it is saying. You have to use your gift in "THE TEACHING. Which is refering to the content of God's Word. The spiritual gift of teaching is only in teaching the Word of God.

And I have noticed something. Some folks who are good public school teachers cannot teach God's Word. ~~I do not know why.~~ And I have notice that some folks who are not very well educated or able to teach in the public schools, but who can teach Gods Word. <sup>Now, why is that true</sup> ~~That is amazing to me.~~

Again, the spiritual gift is there from God.

(4E) Fourth, we have the spiritual gift of exhortation. Vs 8 says, "he who exhorts, in his exhortation."

Now, the word "exhort" means to "call along side of." Usually it is translated "comfort," or "encouragement." It means "one called along side of <sup>someone else to give comfort or encouragement</sup>

<sup>Dear Friends</sup> ~~People~~, if there was ever a need in the body of Christ, it is this gift. There are a lot of broken hearts in our midst, right now. A lot of people with real needs. People who would give anything if a christian would come up and put his arm around him and say, "Brother, I love you. And I am here to minister to you and to encourage you and to share a word of comfort."

This is a spiritual gift. And ~~if~~ we could only unlock the potential of that, how we could minister one to another. Building and ~~and~~ encouraging one another in the Lord. It is a tremendous thing.

(5E) Then we have the gift of Giving. Vs 8 says "he who gives, with ~~liberality~~ liberality." Nowm the word "liberality" means "single ~~liberality~~" It is in contrast to another Greek word meaning "double."

The point is: when you give do so with single motivation. Not with double motivation. Some people give large amonnts of money, but it isn't the spiritual gift. Because they give with double motivation.

They give so that people might know it. Or, so that others will think will of ~~them~~ for doing it. That is not the spiritual gift of giving.

Also, having the spiritual gift of giving doesn't mean that you have a lot of money. I say that because many people think at this point: "Well that isn't my gift because I don't have a lot of money." Listen, it has nothing to do with *the amount of money you have.*

I know people right here in ~~the body of Christ~~ *This church* that have the spiritual gift of giving. And whether they are rich or poor makes no difference. I have seen people with very little income, yet, they practice this gift. The responses of their heart is fantastic. God has inabled them with the spiritual gift of giving.

Now, all christians are to give. As a matter of fact, all christians are to teach the basic principles of doctrine according to Hebrews 5. Every christian is to minister in all of these areas. But, each believer is especial equipped in a certain area by the Holy Spirit in order for the total body to minister effectively.

(6E) Then, notice, in Vs 8, "he who leads, with diligēnce." The word "lead" ~~on "rule" (RS)~~ means "to stand before a crowd." It is talking about "~~leader/ship~~" "leadership". And you are to lead with diligēnce.

Have you ever notice in a christian group, such as a sunday School class, and they get together and they need a leader. And you look around the room and say, "Well, how about John."

And John says "Oh, no, I don't want to. Call on someone else..." I refuse the nomination....And so it goes.

I will tell how how to recognize the spiritual gift of leadership. When he does it with diligence. You don't have to beg him, you don't have to talk him into ~~the service~~ *leadership*, Oh, no, he knows that God has equipped him.

God needs leaders . And he gives this gift to his people. ~~And~~ And they lead with diligency. *Meaning effectnal, meaning consistng - ~~the seeing~~ The good of all*

If God has equipped you with the ability to stand before a group, then do it with diligence. Wherever God needs a leader, you be there ready to be used.



(7E) Then the final gift is the spiritual gift of mercy. "He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

*Ministry to the sick*

To show mercy refers to "compassion" to the sick." Show mercy. Oh, friends, what a great need within the body of Christ. And to do it with "cheerfulness" which means "a joyful readiness at all times."

Now, some folks go into a hospital, for example, to show mercy and a little compassion on the sick and began to preach to that person. And before long the patient is in deep depression. And I will tell you one thing, that person who comes to comfort does not have the spiritual gift of mercy.

But, oh what a thrill it is to meet someone with the spiritual gift of showing mercy. Just to talk with them is a breath of fresh air. It is like cool water to a dry mouth. It is a beautiful thing to see the spiritual gift of mercy working.

*don't*

*xxx*

Now, ~~don't~~, please listen. God wants all of us to ministry to one another in the body. But, please notice the relationship of spiritual gifts with Romans 12:1 and 2.

If you have not committed your life to God as a living sacrifice, then God cannot use your spiritual gift.

*committed yourself to God*

Some of you have never ~~told God anything~~ about your jobs. You have gone right ahead and made your own plans. You have ideas of retirement and security and you have never consoled the Lord. "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God."

Some of you have said, "I know that this is what God wants me to do" with out ever consoling him." And it is a little smoke screen that we throw up in front of people to try and be convinced that this is the way we should go. Have you presented your bodies as a living sacrifice? Do you know why we don't ministry? Do you know why there is conflict within the body? Do you know why we are not getting the job done? Why the world does not see Christ in us?..Because we have never made that commitment....

That is the issue....Commitment.....*First to God second to me another.*

*Let's close in prayer*