



Blessed to Be a Blessing

Key idea:

It is the responsibility of each individual member of the body of Christ to exercise the grace and faith given them by God with sound judgment, for the benefit of the body, and in meaningful community with the people of God.

Key text:

Romans 12:3-8 (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Key points:

1. Each member of the body of Christ is expected to exercise sound judgment, rather than overestimating oneself.
2. Each member of the body of Christ is expected to live in community with fellow members of the body in a way that is both evident and essential.
3. Each member of the body of Christ is expected to exercise the gifts he or she has been given by God, for the benefit of the body.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?

2. What does Paul mean when he says “each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned”? How do we evaluate this in our own lives?
3. What does it mean that our gifts are different “according to the grace given to us”? How are we to differentiate this grace from THE grace that saves?
4. Why is it significant that Paul says we are “individually members of one another”? How should that bear itself out in our everyday lives?
5. In what ways might God be calling me to exercise the gifts that He has given me? How should I approach this, knowing that these are the gifts God has given to benefit the local church?
6. Who do I know that I can encourage in the use of their God-given gifts?
7. Who will I call or see to invite to church this coming Sunday?