

MY PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Grace: God's Power to Change Your Life-Week 32

Romans 12:1-8

STEP 1: DEDICATE YOUR BODY.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Romans 12:1

STEP 2: ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

STEP 3: EVALUATE YOUR STRENGTHS.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you." Romans 12:3

STEP 4: COOPERATE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:4-5

Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:

(See also 1 Cor. 12:1-31, Eph. 4:11-15)

- * Every believer is a minister.
- * Every believer has a different function.
- * Every ministry is important.
- * Every believer must cooperate.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY:

WHAT IS MINISTRY?

Definition: (Greek "diakonos" - "to serve")

Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.

We minister in 3 directions:

- * To the Lord. (Acts 13:3)
- * To other believers. (Heb. 6:10)
- * To unbelievers. (Matt. 5:13)

MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:6-8

"... Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that." 1 Cor. 7:7b

WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?

HEART

"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose..." Rev. 17:7

"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for His own chosen purpose!" Phil. 2:13 (NEB)

WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?

ABILITIES

"There are different abilities to perform service..." 1 Cor. 12:6

"I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..." Exodus 31:3

"... our competence comes from God." 2 Cor. 3:5b

WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?

PERSONALITY

"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself." 1 Cor. 2:11 (LB)

WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?

EXPERIENCES

*** WHAT SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"There has been enough time for you to be teachers -- BUT you still need to be taught... (you are) without any experience in the matter of right and wrong." Heb. 5:12-13

*** WHAT PAINFUL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." Prov 20:30 (GN)

"God helps us in our troubles, so we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God." 2 Cor. 1:4 (GN)