

Romans 12:3-4

³For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

Review: In the 12th chapter of Romans, Paul moves from doctrine to practice, giving advice for living the Christian life. It starts with a reminder that in light of all God has done for us, there is no other acceptable response but completely giving of our bodies as instruments of righteousness. Then in verse 2 we find that presentable bodies come from renewed minds. To change our thinking to be aligned with Gods, we must allow the word of God to transform us.

But what is all this transformation for? To know God better? To Sin less? Yes. But that is not the end, it's merely the beginning. Time alone with God, studying His word is **absolutely our priority**, but we are not to go off alone enjoying fellowship with God, renewing our minds and call it a day. As much as I would like to get to the end of Romans 12:2, "then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is", and say the end. That is merely the beginning. We are growing in Christ for the purpose of using our talents and resources for the benefit of the body of Christ. Paul will now spend the next four chapters on putting your transformation into practice.

Verse 3 For by the grace given to 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 judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Grace: Undeserved favor, divine influence upon the heart

Paul starts with "by the grace given to me" pointing back to work of God again. He, as a recipient of the undeserved favor of God, which called him to salvation and to be an apostle, allowed him to speak with authority and from sincere humility.

Rom 15:15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me ^[a]from God,

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[a]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Now as a changed man Paul can say to us, those who are being changed, not to think too highly of ourselves.

Hyperphraneo – over esteem, arrogant, conceit. Pride: deep pleasure in one's own achievements, self-promotion/admiration. Self-esteem is something the world values, promotes and believes necessary for success. On amazon there are over 5,000 books on self-esteem including a whole section designed for early training of children. Before his transformation, when Paul was Saul, he had plenty of self-esteem. In the past he took pride in all of his accomplishments, his status, and took credit even for his lineage. But now, by the grace of God, his eyes were opened and his confidence is now in God.

Phil 3:3-9 for we are the *true* ¹circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss ^[c]in view of the surpassing value of ^[d]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, ^[e]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

We don't put our confidence in our flesh, which we know will fail, but we put our faith in Christ Jesus. Earthly pride is not only unbiblical, it's unsustainable because no one is perfect and they are continually striving for it and never satisfied.

Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD.

We are called to be humble and not to be proud. What's wrong with pride?

1 Pet 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

Ps 10:4 In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Prov 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Prov 13:10 Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Prov 16:18 Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

Pride is sin, it separates us from God and separates people. It is the opposite of unity. Prideful people are not effective body parts.

But rather think of yourself with sober judgement: sound, humble, without vanity. Not under the influence of anything other than God. To see yourself in light of the gospel not filled with yourself of conceited, but filled with the Holy Spirit.

1 Pet 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Pet 1:13 Therefore, ^[a]prepare your minds for action, ^[b]keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace ^[c]to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Thes 5:8 But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

We must be sure we are using the right measuring tool, the word of God, not the standards of this world. Just like you cannot measure the ingredients to bake a cake with a ruler, we can't measure our righteousness by man's standards. It is a recipe for disaster! This is why we start with renewing our mind, so that we can have the wisdom to think of ourselves "soberly" according to the measure of faith we have been given.

According to the measure of faith: Faith: moral conviction, especially reliance on Christ. This is not referring to saving faith, as each believer is given the same saving faith, but the supernatural endowment of God that the holy spirit give to each believer so that he may fulfill his function in the body of Christ. We are to be stewards of these spiritual gifts in the particular role we each have in the Church for the building up of the body. The measure of faith we should see ourselves in is as **a vital, important piece of the body**, neither more or less important than any other.

Rom 12:4-5 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Paul uses the human body to help us understand how we as Christians under the headship of Christ should function as one united body.

1Cor12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1Cor12:21-26 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, [a]it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³ and those *members* of the body which we [b]deem less honorable, [c]on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no [d]ivision in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is [e]honed, all the members rejoice with it.

Eph4:4-7 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

Eph4:11-13 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the [d]saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the [e]knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature [f]which belongs to the fullness of Christ

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

No part is insignificant and no part is exalted, but all working together for the sole purpose of advancing the Church and not serving oneself. Humility required!

We are called to get our minds renewed and grow in our faith in order to get out there and do your part, **transformed and ready for action!**