

The Way

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Romans 12:3-8

3For 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. 4For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8the 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.

Background

In the first sermon of the series, *The Way*, we looked at Paul's instructions for believers to live a surrendered life that is transformed by a 'renewed mind.' In the following verses, Paul describes the influence of *what* and *how* we THINK has on our daily ACTIONS. For believers, when we surrender to God's mercy and are transformed by God's Word, then we will develop a mind after God's ways to serve God's people with the gifts God has given us.

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- Why is humility one of the most elusive virtues for us to develop? How can we pray for you this week?

Talk it Over

- **Read Romans 12:3.** Paul uses the term for ‘thinking’ four different times in this one verse. Why do you think he begins with the MIND before moving to actions? What is the connection between a “renewed” mind (vs.2) and thinking rightly about ourselves? Why is it so easy for us to think “more highly” of ourselves? What are some of the problems that arise when we do not practice “sober” or “clear” thinking about ourselves and others? What are some practical ways to battle this struggle? What are some other Scriptures that can help us think “rightly” about ourselves and others?
- **Read Romans 12:4-6.** God has entrusted spiritual gifts to each believer. How does thinking rightly about ourselves and others help us see each other’s gifts in the right “light”? What analogy does Paul use to describe the church in this passage? How can we better celebrate one another’s gifts when we are tempted to compare? What do you think it means when Paul says we are “members of one another”? How does this change the way we see ourselves and others inside the life of the church? What is the origin of our spiritual gifts and why is that important to remember?
- **Read Romans 12:6-8.** Paul knows the best way for people to ‘discover’ their spiritual gift is to simply SERVE right where they are. In what ways are you putting to use your spiritual gifts right now? What is one area within our local church where you know you can start serving right now? Where do you see some specific needs where you live, work, and play that you could step into help? In what ways has God used others in your life to help you find your own spiritual gifts?

Live it Out

- What is one practical step you can take to find a place to use your spiritual gift within the life of our local church or within the community? What is one specific way each of us can develop a sense of “right thinking” or humility?