

Romans 12:3-8

My position in the body of Christ.

I. By Understanding how God views me. (v3)

And accept it!

A. Self-perception must be wrapped in humility. [Phil 4:11]

Think not to h_____

Think not to l_____

B. Make sure your self-image is b_____.

[Mis-perception in the world ... I am owed everything ...]

II. By Understanding how God views believers (collectively) (church). (v4-5)

And accept it!

A. The church

* local / universal –

* b_____ are seen in the text (the distinction is not vital)

B. The function (working together) [Paul's illustration]

[body illustration also used in – 1 Cor; Eph; Col; Rom]

III. By Understanding God's view of your abilities. (v6-8)

And accept it!

[Matt 25:15ff]

Definition of gifts – an enablement, capacity, ability or talent given to man by God accompanied by a ministry (place of service in the local church) or immediate surroundings which will evidence itself in an effect (fruit).

Two types:

Temporary (supernatural, special) – gifts given for use in the infancy, inaugural period of the church, had a very distinct purpose for its beginning.

Permanent (natural, common) abilities or talents given to all individuals in varying degrees on a permanent basis to be used by the church throughout its infancy and maturity. (Matt 25:14-30; Parable of the Talents)

Description of gifts (v6-8) (cf. I Cor 12:8-11, 28-30; Eph 4:11)

(1) "Prophecy" (v6) - new revelation from God (declare and interpret God's will)

(2) "Ministry" (v7) – serving or helping (I Cor 12:28) – a basic ability to assist another in need

(3) "Teaching" (v7) – art of making the words of God's message understandable, applying it.

(4) "Exhortation" (v8) – encouragement strengthening; a speaking duty less elaborate than teaching – more physical qualifications of voice (being at the right place at the right time to encourage).

(5) "Ruleth" (v8) – presiding in a place of authority, able to take charge and get a job done.

(6) "Showing mercy" – (v8) – works of love for the sad and destitute; able to love the unlovable.

**God's will is to exercise your gifts in humility.