

**We Are One Body - Romans 12:3-8**  
**First Southern Baptist Church - May 17, 2023**

**Introduction:**

1. Therefore (verse 1)
  - because of the “mercies” of God
2. Be “transformed” - not conformed
  - How? By the renewing of your mind

**Verse 3 - Think**

1. After all we ARE renewing our minds
2. Don't “think” more highly (negative)
  - \*Look at verse 16 - “same mind”
    - not high estate
    - mind not high things but condescend to men of low estate
  - >Wise in own conceits - the words mean overpowering estimation of one's own abilities - how do we keep from being that way? We recognize that everything we have that is good God has given us (1 Cor. 4:6-7).
3. Do “think” soberly
  - reasonable voice
  - sober means calm, steady or habitually temperate
4. Don't be conceited (in your thinking) - because we are all one body... and each is just as important as the other... we all have our roles to play
5. Mental illness - often cases of self-absorption - paranoid people are hyper self-consciousness.
6. You should not think any more of ourselves than we ought, because God has given us all that we have
7. Your opinion of yourself must agree with God's opinion of you
8. As God has dealt every man the measure of faith

**Verse 4 “For” - because**

1. We are a body (4-5)
  - illustration of the body
2. “Many” members
3. Not the same “office” (or role, or station in life)
  - place or use
4. Because there is variety this is why you should be humble. Note your place and stay there, recognize your limitations and work accordingly.

**Verse 5 - “Even So” - just like that**

1. We are many
  - diversity and harmony together
2. We are one
3. Members of one another
  - more than just “we're all in this together” - we are a organic part of one another, like a body

**Verse 6 - Gifts**

1. Gifts by grace

- God chooses who to give certain gifts
- if it is by grace, then there is no comparison

2. Different “according to the grace” given to each

3. **Gift list:**

\*The idea here is not the proper identifying of our gifts... but using them in faithful service

1) **Prophecy**

- according to the proportion of our faith
- “faith” given
- as faith give ability

Examples:

- Peter’s admonition about this gift - “whoever speaks, let him speak as if it were the oracles of God” - 1 Peter 4:11
- the gift of prophecy is to be God’s public spokesman - like Aaron was for Moses at Ex. 4:10-15

**Verse 7**

2) **Ministry** (service)

- wait on ministry (from “*diakonos*”) from which we get “deacon”
- “wait” as a waiter “waits” on people

3) **Teaching**

- focus on teaching

Examples:

- the early church regularly taught - Acts 2:42
- “go ye therefore... teaching them to observe all things” - Mt. 28:19-20
- Paul’s spiritual gift included preaching and teaching - 2 Tim. 1:11
- Paul told Timothy to “teach others also” - 2 Tim. 2:2

**Verse 8**

4) **Exhortation**

- “on” exhortation
- encourage, push, charge
- there is a naval regulation that says “no officer shall speak discouragingly to an officer about any undertaking in which he may be engaged” - Kenneth Wuest
- many who are “apt to teach” cannot “exhort” - teaching takes a clear head... exhortation takes a warm heart.
- the Living Bible calls it stirring speech
- \*Focused on your part, be diligent about it

5) **Giving**

- with simplicity
- giving for giving’s sake, the sheer joy of giving
- there is a giving that gives with a moral lecture
- just do it
- not ornate, or before others
- “liberally” - various translation
- NEB says “with all your heart”
- tempted to be stingy

Examples: - the usual word for giving is “*didomi*”

- the word used here is “*metadidomi*” - sharing yourself along with

the gift

John told his followers, “let the man who has two tunics  
“*metadidomi*” with the man who has none (Luke 3:8,11)

Paul wanted to impart (“*metadidomi*”) some spiritual gift - Rom.  
1:11

6) ***Ruleth*** (leadership)

The Living Bible says, if God has put you in leadership, do it seriously  
-if all authority comes from God, it must be handled diligently  
-with attention and industry and zeal  
-tempted to be slothful

7) ***Show mercy***

-with cheerfulness  
-it is possible to forgive in such a way that the very act is an insult  
-tempted to lord it over - or be stingy  
-God given speak sensitivity to suffering and sorrow, with the ability to  
recognize misery and distress  
-this person will notice if someone is crying

**Take Aways**

1. Think “soberly”

As God has dealt to every man - the measure of faith

Verse 6 - “According to grace given”

Verse 6 - “according to proportion of faith”

If I were an athlete... if I were a pastor... if I were a wealthy person...

2. Focus is on the way we minister - not the type of ministry

-the way we give - not the amount

-the way we have mercy - not who or how much

3. All are included in the “gifting”

4. In context... this is all about transforming

-the mind

-the gifts

-verse 9ff - the attitudes