

SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

Romans Part 25 – Glorifying God through Serving

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INTRODUCTION

All of us have a deep desire within for significance, but we tend to search for it in all the wrong places. True contentment and fulfillment in life are found in the Word (Jesus and the Scriptures) rather than the WORLD (or our culture). We were created to glorify God, not to glorify ourselves.

- **We glorify God when we surrender our lives and our bodies to Him** (v.1). When we surrender to Him we receive freedom, not bondage. Notice Paul says “I urge you”; he doesn’t say “I command you.” NOTHING glorifies God more than when you decisively offer your life and body – ALL OF YOU – to Him. Surrender is the ONLY way to live.
- **We glorify God when we embrace the mind and the way of Christ** (v.2). The pattern of this world is glorifying yourself rather than God. “But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16). To have the mind of Christ is to look at life the way Jesus does. All the things of earth are temporary. All the trophies of this world are going to burn and only what’s done in Jesus’ name and for His glory is going to last.
- **We glorify God when we see ourselves the way Jesus sees us** (v.3). God doesn’t want us thinking too highly of ourselves or too lowly of ourselves. Sober judgment means:
 - a. We see ourselves the way Jesus sees us. IN JESUS CHRIST I am forgiven and righteous in the sight of God.
 - b. We accept what we can do AND we accept what we cannot do.
- **We glorify God when we use our gifts to encourage the body of Christ.** The Lord intended the church to function as a body under the direction of Christ, the head. We constitute the means by which HE functions in the world. He could have chosen to do it all Himself, but He has chosen to do His kingdom work through us.
 1. **Every Christ follower has at least one spiritual gift** (v.6).
 2. **God is the one who distributes these gifts** (v.6).
 3. **Every Christ follower has a different role and that role is important.** God designed you to make a unique contribution. Without you, the body isn’t complete.
 4. **Every Christ follower must keep his eyes on Jesus.** No body would function if it had two minds giving orders. It is possible for the body to be so remarkably coordinated ONLY because it is directed by ONE WILL. Jesus said “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Romans 12:6-8 gives seven examples of spiritual gifts. As Christ followers we are saved to serve one another and those who are lost. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (for what?) to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Three questions to help you discern your spiritual gifts:

1. What are you passionate about?
2. What are you good at?
3. Do others genuinely affirm your gift?

Your spiritual gifts will be revealed and developed primarily in the context of ministry. Just step out and begin to serve in the area you feel drawn to and trust the Lord to reveal how He has gifted you.

NOTHING compares to the thrill of being used by God to directly or indirectly impact someone for eternity. Will you surrender all to Him and let Him guide you and use you?

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Are any of your ancestors known for something that is remarkable? Tell us the story.
2. When you are at work or serving in some capacity, do you prefer to work/serve by yourself or with a group? Why?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 12:1-2.

3. In verse 2 what does Paul mean when he uses the word “test”? What standard is being used to test for the will of God? Describe the process you go through for testing it.

Read Romans 12:3-8, Philippians 2:3, and John 15:5.

4. What makes a church a well-functioning body? What are some hindrances?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. What do you believe your spiritual gift(s) are? Are you using them in some capacity to serve, build, and encourage the body of Christ? If not, why not? Complete this statement: I wish I could serve in _____ ministry?
6. What is your next step in getting to know and/or use your gift(s)? How may you encourage others to develop and use their gift(s)?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Review the spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, and Ephesians 4:11-14, and 1 Peter 4:7-11. Which gift(s) resonate with you? Which are you passionate about, or have an affinity for? Has anyone affirmed these gifts in you? If you are unsure how to proceed, consider talking with a leader or enrolling in the Discover Your Design course.

<https://www.cschurch.ca/volunteer/discover-your-design/>

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 12:1-8

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. ² 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.

³ 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. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ 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; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ 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.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

1 Corinthians 2:16

for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

This week’s writers: Elsa Henderson, David McMillin, Gene and Karen Gibbs, Sandi Somers and Jorel Quemuel