

Using our Gifts in Proportion to Our Faith

Introduction:

Last week –

- God has assigned a measure of faith to us for service. This faith is different from saving faith...this faith God assigned to us is for function.
- Our approach to service and use of this faith is to be humble...with sober judgment in view of God's mercies.

Our faith to serve is to be expressed and visibly identified in...

1. The context of the body of Christ
2. The form of grace-given gifting
3. Being used in proportion to the faith we've received

1. The Context of the Body of Christ (v.4-5)

2 principles that we much consider from Paul's illustration of the body:

a. We need the body of Christ...the church

- i. The church serves God's purpose of our conformity to Christ. (Romans 8:29)
- ii. No one person possesses the spiritual make-up that would allow for no commitment, lazy commitment, or arrogant commitment to the body/church.
- iii. Our need for the body humbles us.

b. The body of Christ (the Church) needs us

- i. In the same way that there are a variety of functions of the body, we all possess a uniqueness to the body of Christ.
- ii. Your contribution is important because God says it's important...don't hold back from serving the body.

2. The Form of our Faith to Serve is Grace-Given Gifting (v.6)

a. "Having Gifts"

- i. 1 Peter 4:10

b. "Gifts that Differ"

- i. There are a variety of gifts...and the list has no end
- ii. These gifts are set apart from our natural gifts and talents because these gifts are supernatural.
- iii. We need to identify what he has touched in us.

c. “According to the grace given to us”

- i. This does not indicate a different measure or level of grace that we been given.
- ii. Grace – **charis**; gift – **charismata**...there is a unique relationship.
- iii. We go from **grace getters to grace givers**.

3. Use of gifts in proportion to faith

a. Use your gift – “let us use them”

- i. Step up...step out...be used by God for the edification of others.
- ii. Seek your gift – “act first, ask later” **Sam Storms**

b. In proportion to our faith

- i. Use your gift as God has given you faith to operate in it.
- ii. Don't do more than what you have faith for, but seek to do more by faith.
- iii. Seek an increase in your faith to function in more gifting, and function more in your gifting.

c. The foundation of our faith

- i. Reminder: our faith must always remain in view of God's mercies.
- ii. Our faith must be Christ-exalting and mercy dependent.