

October 7, 2018
A Greater Church
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Romans 12:1-8

A Great Church Embraces Sacrifice

Luke 14:33 Philippians 3:8

A Great Church Lives Humility

Micah 6:8 Proverbs 16:18 Philippians 2:3

A Great Church Embraces their diversity

Gal 3:28 Psalm 145:4 1 Timothy 4:12

A Great Church Expresses Grace

2 Timothy 1:6 1 Peter 4:10

Think about a time when you felt like an unneeded or unimportant part of a group. Describe the experience to the group. How did it make you feel? How do you walk through it?

Now think about a time when you felt you were in a position of importance or felt needed. How did you feel in that particular experience?

There are many places throughout the Bible where the church is described as the Body of Christ. Romans 12:4-5 uses the analogy of our human body to Christ's body - both have many parts with different functions - and then continues on to relate that to the gifts God has given us. 1 Corinthians 12 also discusses spiritual gifts in detail and echoes this analogy.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

What do you think is Paul's over-arching message when it come to gifts?

If you have felt unneeded or unimportant in a church group, what would Paul have told you to do?

Describe a time where you found yourself envying someone else's gift. In what ways does this passage help you to value your own gift or service?

What are some things you think people in positions of importance or influence in the church should do?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3 and Hebrews 10:24-25. Do these verses change your answer to the last question? How?

When you feel left out or insecure, remember that regardless of whether we feel our position is important or not, God wants us to use our gifts for the good of the whole.

Read Romans 12:3-5, Philippians 2:3.

What should our view of ourselves be?

How is the way the Bible talks about our view toward ourselves different from the way the world or our friends understand "self-esteem"?

The flip side of being humble is pride. Can you describe a time when you were struggling with pride related to your spiritual gifts or service?

What challenges does the passage we read in 1 Corinthians 12 present to those who are prideful?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Romans 12:6-8

The Pareto principle says that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. How do you find that to be true or untrue in life and in the Church?

What can we do as the Church to counteract this possible trend?

What do these passages tell us about how God wants us to use the gift(s) He has given us? How does this impact the way that you feel about serving others?

How does it make you feel when you are able to do something you are passionate about? How can we apply this to using our gifts to serve others?

Many Christians aren't sure what their spiritual gift is or only have a very vague idea of what it might be. What are some steps that you can take (or have taken) to better understand and use your own spiritual gifts?

As a group and individually throughout the coming week, pray that God would reveal or confirm your gifts to you. Consider how you might use those gifts in service to the church body.