

## ***United: Members of One Another - Rom. 12:3-5 (1 Cor. 12)***

Illus. First steps in faith at EFC Fresno – Youth and adult choir, college group.

Introduction: Last week we concluded our look at verse 1-2. ***Totally commit yourself to following Jesus worshipping him by your continual service and rather than conforming to the present thinking around you continue being transformed by changing your thinking and cooperating with his Spirit.***

1. *Committed Christ Follower – Determined Disciple (12:1)*
2. *Renewing My Mind – Transforming My Life (12:2)*
3. ***Members of One Another – In This Together (12:3-5)***
4. *Gifts, Grace and Community (12:6-8)*
5. *An Authentic, Fervent and Hopeful Community (12:9-13)*
6. *Overcoming Evil With Good in the Community (12:14-21)*

Theme: ***We are called to soberly reflect upon who we are in Christ and our purpose in our faith community. We are to be promoting unity in Christ while recognizing the diversity of the Body of Christ of which we are a needed part.***

### **1. United: Members of One Another (Rom. 12:3-5)**

#### **a) Authoritative Warning for Self-reflection based on our mutual faith in Christ (v. 3)**

- i. “For by the grace given to me **I say to everyone among you...**”
- ii. “not **to think** of himself more highly than he ought **to think**, but **to think** with sober judgment,”
- iii. Either “each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” - faith here points to the measure, or amount, of faith given by God.  
Or “measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us” – ***faith here points to our faith in Christ, one which is equal among us all.***

***“Every member of the church, instead of thinking of himself more highly than he ought, is so to think soberly, measuring himself by the standard which God has given him in his faith, that is, by a standard which forces him to concentrate his attention on those things in which he is precisely the same level as his fellow Christian rather than on those things in which he may be either superior or inferior to them – for the standard Paul has in mind consists, we take it, not in the relative strength or otherwise of the particular Christian’s faith but in the simple fact of its existence, that is, in the fact of his admission of his dependence on, and commitment to, Jesus Christ.”*** CEB Cranfield, Romans vol.2, p.615.

#### **Men’s group – My story, my mission**

- iv. A correlated concept on how we should think about others - ***Philippians 2:1-5***

#### **b) The Reason for self-reflection – Community unity in Christ through diversity (vv. 4-5)**

- i. ***Diversity*** - “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,”

***“Diversity, not uniformity, is the mark of God’s handiwork, it is so in nature; it is so in grace, and nowhere more so than in the Christian community.”*** F. F. Bruce, Romans, p.214.

<sup>10</sup> ***For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)***

ii. ***Unity in Christ*** – ‘so in Christ we who are many form one body,’ **1 Cor. 12:25-27**

iii. ***Community*** – “and each member belongs to all the others” – We need each other. Christianity is a team sport and we need players in all the positions with a good bench.

***“...we are dependent on one another, and the one-anotherness of the Christian fellowship is enhanced by the diversity of the gifts.” John Stott, Romans, p. 326.***

iv. ***A prayer on promoting unity in Community*** – **Romans 15:5-7**

<sup>3</sup> Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. <sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. **Romans 12:3-5 (NLT)**

## **2. *Members of One Another – We're in This Together!***

a. ***Sober Self Reflection – Why am I here? - Purpose***

i. ***Who am I? – Self-identity needs sober self-reflection***

ii. ***Where do I belong? – Security is found in the right community***

iii. ***What am I supposed to do with my Life? – Significance is found in utilizing my giftedness in community. – Next week.***

b. ***Why is self-reflection so difficult? – Gen. 3:3-13***

i. ***Afraid and Ashamed - 'I'm a hot mess.'"***

ii. ***Naked and Hidden – Paparazzi anyone?***

iii. ***Denial and Blame - "Throwing the woman under the bus"***

***Quote (Korean revival springs from confession) – Collin Hansen and John Woodbridge, A God-Sized Vision, pp. 106-107***

iv. ***See yourself as God sees you.***

➤ ***Quote Chip Ingram, Living on the Edge, p. 125-127***

c. ***We're in This Together! Members of One Another – Unity, harmony, humility and acceptance***

i. ***Being together in community – Heb. 10:24-25***

ii. ***Unity with harmony – Rom. 15:5***

iii. ***Accepting or welcoming one another – Rom. 15:5***

iv. ***Like minded; humbly deferring to one another – Phil. 2:1-5***

v. ***The one anothers***

➤ ***Andy Stanley has said, "The primary activity of the church was one-anothering one another."***

**Summary: *United: Members of One Another***

1. ***For community to be healthy we need to know who we are in Christ***
2. ***For community to thrive we need to celebrate diversity in Christ***
3. ***For community to have unity in Christ we need to have humility, harmony, love and grace.***

**Application: *United: Members of One Another***

1. ***Do I have an accurate assessment of who I am in Christ?***
2. ***Am I committed to being myself and serving in my community?***
3. ***Am I committed to a Christlike unity and diversity in community?***