

1. 1 Corinthians 6:20: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's".

- a. In Romans 12:1, Paul "appealed to and urged" believers at Rome to remember the mercies of God toward them as the primary reason and motivation for LIVING their Christian lives!
- b. Paul told the saints at Philippi "For me to live is Christ!" Christ and His Word was woven into every aspect of Paul's life! He told the saints at Colossae, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." And here, Paul urged the Christians at Rome to present their bodies "a living sacrifice" unto God!
 - i. 1st: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies (your whole selves) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service," meaning your rational worship."
- c. That reasonable worship that God is looking for IN YOU each day is that you worship Him in Spirit and in truth. The essential elements for true worship of God are His presence (His Spirit) and His Word!
- d. THIS should not only be what you desire, but also what you pursue and go after every day in your life, dear child of God.
 - i. 2nd: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed (which literally means be changed or transfigured within) by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."
- e. When your heart and mind is transformed or changed within by the Spirit of God, it will be proved by what is seen outwardly in your life! This holy transformation and renovation are things that continue to take place in the life of every believer! The more you are transformed and renewed in your mind, the less you will be conformed to this world. Romans 12:3-8

2. Romans 12:3:

- a. Having spoken of how we should be "transformed by the renewing of our minds", now Paul teaches us "HOW NOT TO THINK about ourselves" but also "HOW TO THINK about ourselves."
 - i. First, don't do what most humans are prone to do, don't think MORE HIGHLY than you ought to think about yourself. Is Paul saying it's ok to do so, maybe, a little bit? NO!
- b. The context is that God has dealt to each one of us as His children, "a measure (or an allotment) of faith" to use in our Christian lives in how we serve the Lord... The Psalmist expressed this in Psalm 131:1:

- i. "LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me."
- c. Here is where each of us need the Spirit of God within us to help us to "think right" or as Paul wrote, "to think soberly" about ourselves regarding what we do in our service for Christ.
- d. Paul is teaching us of the danger in placing too high esteem upon ourselves, and of falling into the snare of exercising ourselves in matters that are too high for us, or for the measure of faith that God has given to us. A "Measure" literally means a "limited portion."
- e. God has portioned faith to every one of us as His children. In His wisdom and providence, He gives more faith to some than to others, the reason is, we are not all called to do the same things for the Kingdom of Christ!
- f. I want to show you something the John the Baptist said to his followers when he spoke to them about the Lord Jesus:
 - i. John 3:34: "For He whom God hath sent speaketh the Words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him."
- g. From this passage we understand that every one of us have "limited portions" of the Spirit of God, even when we are "filled with the Holy Spirit" we DO NOT possess the Spirit of God like Jesus did in the days of His humanity, because He was God manifest in the flesh.
 - i. Ephesians 4:7, 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

3. Here is where we must "think soberly" about ourselves and be so careful of exalting ourselves to a position or office or ministry in God's church which exceeds or is beyond the measure of faith that God has given to us!

- a. To think soberly about yourself in this context is to make a sound judgment about yourself and your abilities.
- b. All of us have the same faith, but each one of us have been given different portions of faith from God, which we are to use in our lives as servants in His Kingdom. Romans 12:4-5
- c. Paul uses the example of our human bodies. We have "one body" that is made up of many members! As every part of our body nourishes, helps, and compliments the other parts of the body, so should it be in the church.
- d. Some will have more prominent positions in the body, but that doesn't mean they are more important than those members who have less prominent positions in the church!
 - i. "So, we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." E Pluribus Unum!

4. Romans 12:6-8: Same body, differing gifts.

- a. Do what God has called you to do for His Kingdom with humility, diligence, simplicity, or sincerity, and with cheerfulness!
- b. When every one of us as individual members of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church are serving God by faith, and in

a capacity with the talents and abilities that God has given to us, then will the body be healthy!

c. In closing, I think the overarching theme of tonight's lesson from God's Word is, don't think too highly of yourself or exalt yourself in the church, but instead, mortify and fight off those conceited thoughts, and think soberly about yourself and your spiritual participation in the body of Christ.

- i. Galatians 6:3: "For if any man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."
- ii. 2 Corinthians 3:5: "Not that we are sufficient (or adequate in and) of ourselves to think anything as of (or from) ourselves; but our sufficiency is of (or from) God."