



BAPTIST CHURCH

“I Have Something To Tell You”

Unity Is A Game Changer

Romans 12:3-8

Introduction

Over the past few weeks we have been walking through **Romans 12**.

So far in **Romans 12:1-2** we have discovered:

Every follower of Christ is:

Challenged to Live With Purpose.

“In view of the mercies of God— **Because of the love, compassion, grace, majesty, greatness, judgments, wisdom, power, and glory of God we are called to live a different life! We are challenged to present ourselves— to freely give the total of sum of who we are to God— so He can utilize us however He deems necessary, to accomplish His plans and advance His kingdom on the earth.**

Called to Live a Transformed Life

Living a transformed life means:

Do not be Conformed to this age.

Be Transformed by the renewing of our mind

Today we will examine **Romans 12:3** and we will discover “**Unity**” is marked by three Prominent Distinctions.

Scripture

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.

4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function,

5 in the same way **we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.**

6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith;

7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching;

8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness. CSB

Quote Of The Day

“For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.” — Rudyard Kipling

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” — Henry Ford

Romans 12:3-8 focuses on the Principle of Unity!

v.5 “. . . we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.” CSB

Unity— A condition of harmony, the quality or state of being made as one.

Genesis 11:6 describes the power and significance of unity “The LORD said, “If they have begun to do this as one people all having the same language, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” CSB

What does real Unity look like?— Termites

Termites may be a nuisance and hard to tolerate, but they're easy to admire. Termite mounds can reach as high as thirty feet. Based on their tiny size, that's the equivalent of humans building something twice as tall as the 2,722-foot Burj Khalifa, in Dubai. Or in other words a structure that is a mile high. The interior of a termite mound is an intricate structure of interweaving tunnels and passageways, radiating chambers, galleries, archways, and spiral staircases.

To build a mound, termites move vast quantities of mud and water. In the course of a year, eleven pounds of termites can move about three hundred and sixty-four pounds of dirt and thirty-three hundred pounds of water. The point of all this construction is not to have a place to dwell—the colony lives in a nest six to seven feet below the mound—but to be able to breathe. The mound acts as a lung for the colony, managing the exchange of gases, leveraging small changes in wind speed to inhale and exhale.

Termites appear to do all this without any centralized planning: there are no architects, engineers, or blueprints. The termite mound isn't just a building. It's much more like a body, a self-regulating organic process that always reacts to its changing environment. Scientists claim that individual termites are not very intelligent. They lack memory and the ability to learn. Put a few termites into a Petri dish and they wander around aimlessly. But put enough termites together, in the right conditions, and they will build you a cathedral. Citation: Amia Srinivasan, "What Termites Can Teach Us," [The New Yorker](#) (9-17-18)

Unity is a game changer!

If termites can work together seamlessly to create cathedrals in the dirt then great things can be accomplished in our world when God's people, weak as we are individually, worship, pray and serve together in unity.

When the Church is led and united by the Holy Spirit, nothing we seek to accomplish will be impossible.

In **Romans 12:3** we discover "**Unity**" is marked by three Prominent Distinctions.

- 1. Humility**
- 2. Wisdom**

3. Faith

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone of you:

1. Live with Humility

“For by the grace given to me, **I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think.** Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.” CSB

The phrase translated “**Think of himself more highly**” comes from the Greek word “**Huperphroneo**” meaning to be self-centered, to be overly proud, to have unwarranted pride in oneself or in personal accomplishments, to be conceited, to think I am better than!

In my experience I have learned there are two types of humility:

1. Vainglorious Humility

What is Vainglorious Humility?

Vainglorious Humility is the attempt to act humble and say humble things when it is obvious the words and deeds are meant to impress others.

Vainglorious Humility looks like the Pharisees in the New Testament.

The New Testament provides several examples of the vainglorious humility of the Pharisees. The pride of the Pharisees was evident through self-righteousness, hypocrisy, and a desire for public recognition.

Thinking more highly of myself, thinking that I am better, or superior is vainglorious, it is pride.

Pride is the attitude of ME! I want/ need others to recognize ME, Notice ME, Understand ME, Respond to ME, Honor Me and Treat ME special.

In the PKV— the Pat Kilby version Paul is communicating **“Do not be a legend in your own mind!”**

What does being a legend in our mind really look like?

Captain James Cook was an English explorer and navigator (1728-1779). He is the man credited with discovering Hawaii. When he first landed on those Pacific islands the natives thought he was a god and gave him divine treatment. He did nothing to discourage their perception; he embraced the role of god. All worked well for Captain Cook until he left the isles. A storm forced him to sail back to the island for shelter. The natives believed no god would be hindered by a storm, so they felt betrayed and killed Captain Cook for pretending to be a god. Citation: ["The Human Side of Ministry," Rick Warren, The Pastor's Update, Feb. 1991](#)

The Bible has much to say about pride!

Proverbs 8:13 “To fear the LORD is to hate evil. I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech.” CSB

God hates pride and arrogance because it seeks to diminish the awesomeness of God. Pride seeks to diminish the value of others and pride exaggerates the value of **“ME.”**

There are two types of humility: Vainglorious

Authentic Humility

What is Authentic Humility?

Robert F. Morneau made this statement about Authentic Humility.

“Authentic Humility is the quality of living in the truth: The truth that we are creatures and not the Creator; the truth that our life is a composite of good and evil, light and darkness; the truth that in our littleness we have been given extravagant dignity.... Humility is saying a radical yes to the human condition.” Citation: [Robert F. Morneau, quoted in "Reflections," Christianity Today \(8-21-00\)](#)

I Peter 5:5-6 “. . . All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. ‘Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time,’ CSB

“**Unity**” is marked by Humility!

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone of you: Live with Humility;

2. Live with Wisdom

“For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. **Instead, think sensibly**, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.” CSB

To “**Think Sensibly**” means to think of yourself with sound judgment, common sense, wisdom.

This segment of verse 3 has two distinct phrases that we need to understand and apply as we view ourselves and others.

A. “Instead think of yourself”

Instead of overestimating and exaggerating ourselves we would do well “**to think**” to evaluate ourselves according to a different standard.

The phrase “**to think**” comes from the Greek word **phroneo** which means to exercise the mind, to evaluate with concern for obedience.

This word carries with this idea: As we evaluate ourselves we must ask: Am I authentic, am I really who I say I am?

In this passage Paul is warning against pride.

The Apostle Paul is warning every one: Do not judge your value or the value of another based on visible signs such as talents, wealth, position, or function in life.

The words used in the previous phrase “**to think of yourselves more highly**” comes from the Greek word **huperphroneo** which means to exaggerate your self worth.

The Roman Culture placed great emphasis on rank, privilege, wealth, eloquence, physical beauty, accomplishments and social status. While this habit of judging prevailed in the Roman culture, it continues to exist in our world today. The danger is that this standard of evaluation exists and prevails in the church.

Our value as a person does not come from the values and standards of the world we live in.

The second word we need to pay attention to is:

B. Sensibly

The word translated “**sensibly**” means we are to think and therefore evaluate ourselves wisely with reason and common sense.

Those who do not “**think sensibly**” miss the point of what it means to be a true servant and therefore over-estimate and exaggerate themselves.

Paul, in this passage of Scripture is saying the standard of God’s Word is the foundation of all judgment. We should think of ourselves and others according to the standard of God’s Word which produces Christian character (righteousness).

A person that thinks of themselves more highly than they should are proud, haughty, foolish in their conduct.

Those who “**think sensibly**” of themselves are modest, humble and sincere.

Alex Haley the author of “Roots” is quoted as saying. “I have a picture of a turtle on a fence post hanging on the wall in my office. Every time I look at the picture I am reminded, “Mr. Haley, you didn’t get here by yourself.”

The heart of a true servant comes from an honest evaluation of ourselves!

“Unity” is marked by Humility, Wisdom

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone of you:

3. Live with Faith

“For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, **think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.**” CSB

Unity is marked by faith

Faith present in our life is directly related to our relationship with God.

We all have gifts, strengths, and ability. However, God utilizes our gifts according to our faith.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. NIV

We should not be proud of our gifts or ability they are from God, we did nothing to deserve them or receive them.

We should exercise our gifts with humility in faith that God can bless them!

I am not proud to be a preacher! I am blessed to be a preacher!

I am fully aware that God can bless the preaching of His Word without blessing the preacher!

I am fully aware that God can bless the song and not bless the singer.

I am fully aware that God can bless any ministry without blessing those who do the ministry.

When we utilize what God has blessed us with by faith He will honor and bless it!

What does a faith that God blesses look like?

It looks like Ewald Chaldberg.

Gordon Johnson in one of his sermons “Finding Significance in Obscurity” told the story of Ewald Chaldberg. Many years ago in the city of Minneapolis at Bethlehem Baptist Church they needed a Sunday school teacher for the junior boys. This class wasn't bad, the boys were just energetic. No teacher had been able to control them. Ewald Chaldberg, a Swedish masseur, was asked to teach, trusting God by faith Ewald took responsibility for the junior boys class.

Ewald was a small and with a Swedish accent. The buzz all over the church was the phrase, **"He'll never make it."** Three weeks, and that will be the end." But somehow Ewald Chaldberg believed God when he took the class, and he stayed with it through the years. He kept teaching boys. Some years ago I was asked to come to that church and share in a service. It was the tenth anniversary of the death of Ewald Chaldberg. How do you like that--a layman in the church, and they're celebrating the tenth anniversary of his death

During the service, they recounted that at least forty men were in Christian service someplace in the world because Ewald Chaldberg taught boys, loved them, and watched over them as they grew. Ewald Chaldberg had faith to believe that God could overcome his human limitations.

On the morning of that anniversary celebration, twenty-seven lay persons stood up to say, "We're going to be like Ewald Chaldberg in a small way." The small and seemingly obscure man with a Swedish accent found significance because he trusted the Lord who said, "My power is made perfect in weakness." Citation: Gordon Johnson, "Finding Significance in Obscurity," Preaching Today, Tape No. 82.

When the Church is led and united by the Holy Spirit in faith nothing we seek to accomplish will be impossible.

Unity is a game changer!

Romans 12:3 teaches us “**Unity**” comes from

- 1. Humility**
- 2. Wisdom**
- 3. Faith**