

Intelligent Design

Romans 12.3-8

There are some in the church who believe that we have adopted a non-biblical view of the church. What's gone wrong with our thinking about church? It may be that we have lost the simple structure of the church and the life supplied by the participation of the members.

The Believer's Relationship TO the Church

The first thing we need to see is that the Church is all about relationship. You see, the Church is not bricks and mortar, it is people. This relationship is an **intelligent** relationship. It is a relationship based on a fair consideration of how we are related to each other.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." Romans 12.3

But not only do we have an **intelligent** relationship with the other members of the body of Christ, we have an **intimate** relationship.

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12.4-5

The Believer's Responsibility IN the Church

Now, because we are all necessary and important, there is a certain responsibility we have toward one another. We have a responsibility to exercise the gifts and ministries God has given us. Let's look at two categories of spiritual gifts mentioned in our text here in Romans. They could be called **speaking** and **serving** gifts.

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone **speaks**, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone **serves**, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."* 1 Peter 4.10-11

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is **serving**, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is **showing mercy**, let him do it cheerfully."* Romans 12.6-8

Prophecy –

Serving –

Encouraging –

Giving –

Leadership –

Showing Mercy –

"Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" 1 Corinthians 12.14-21