

“Serving by the Spirit”

Romans 12:1-8

Introductory Question – Choose one

Q¹ – What is the best, or worst, team you can remember being on?

Q² – How many spiritual gifts can you list? (Break into two teams and see which group can come up with the most in 2 minutes—open Bibles allowed but no use of google search or a concordance—answer key below)

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Romans 12:1-8.** Paul warns us not to conform to the pattern of this world (v.2). In what areas do you think many Christians are conforming, where perhaps they shouldn't?
- 2) What does it mean “to offer your bodies as living sacrifices” (v.1)? What practical insights and advice does Paul give on this in verse 2?
- 3) How could talk about spiritual gifts or being “gifted” lead to pride?
- 4) How does an emphasis on “grace” and the equal measure of “saving faith” that God has given each of us help us to think of ourselves (and others) “with sober judgment”?
- 5) What point or points is Paul making with his used of the body metaphor in verses 4-5?
- 6) From Paul’s expanded metaphor of the body in **1 Corinthians 12:14-27**, it appears that some in the church felt that certain gifts were better than others. Have you ever encountered this attitude among Christians? In yourself?
- 7) Which of the grace gifts listed verse 6-8 have you seen or experienced lately? What different did/do each of them make?
- 8) Are you using your gifts in a way that is “holy and pleasing to God” (v.1)? If so how? What holds you back from using your gifts more fully?

<u>“Gift” Lists in the New Testament</u>			
Romans 12:6-8 1. Prophecy 2. Serving 3. Teaching 4. Encouraging 5. Giving 6. Leading 7. Showing mercy	1 Cor. 12:8-10 1. Word of wisdom 2. Word of knowledge 3. Faith 4. Gifts of Healing 5. Miraculous powers 6. Prophecy 7. Distinguishing between spirits 8. Speaking in tongues 9. Interp. of tongues	1 Cor. 12:28-30 1. Apostles 2. Prophets 3. Teachers 4. Miracles 5. Healing 6. Helping 7. Guidance 8. Tongues	Ephesians 4:11 1. Apostles 2. Prophets 3. Evangelists 4. Pastors 5. Teachers 1 Peter 4:11 1. Speaking 2. Serving