



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.

Romans 12:3



Which "relationships" test your patience the most – family, workmates, neighbours', strangers in traffic, customer service (either in person or via phone)?

Read Romans 12:3-21

1. Paul begins this section on spiritual gifts with a warning – *do not think you are better than you really are* – why do you believe he does that?
 - Why do you believe humility is the foundation for healthy relationships and effective service?
 - How does Jesus' life and example emphasise the values in our Romans passage and **Philippians 2:3-8**?
 - What challenges you the most about His example?
 - The message suggested that humility isn't thinking less of yourself but thinking about yourself less – how would you explain the difference?
2. In Romans 12:4-8 Paul compares the Church to a body with many parts, what gift or ability has God given you that could strengthen or encourage others?
 - Do you use your gifts primarily for God's glory or more for other gain/personal reasons?
 - Why is it important that each believer see themselves as contributors rather than consumers?

3. The theme of a body and its diverse parts is also covered in **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**, what warning is given here?
 - Why is comparing our gifts to others harmful to the Church?
 - How does serving others reflect genuine spiritual maturity?
4. Which of Paul's practical instructions in **Romans 12:9-16** stand out for you? Why?
 - How do people pretend to love others and conversely what does genuine love look like in a practical way?
 - Can you remember when someone "took delight" in honouring you? How did you feel?
 - How can you honour someone this week?
5. In **Romans 12:17-21** Paul calls us to overcome evil with good – can you remember a time when you or someone else, responded with grace and changed a situation as a result?
 - What is the difference between:
 - Refusing revenge
 - Pursuing peace
 - Actively blessing someone who has wronged you (what does it look like to action the above?)
6. We are called to overcome evil with good, what does that look like in real life situations? (family conflict, workplace/uni tensions, online)
 - Why do we naturally feel we should defend our rights?
 - Why is forgiveness more difficult than retaliation?
 - Is forgiving someone the same as trusting them again? Why or why not?

Looking at the three areas from the message, where do you sense God continuing His renovation in your life?

- Your ego (how you see yourself)?
- Your gifts (how you serve others)?
- Your rights (how you respond when you're hurt)?

What can you practically do to help become more Christlike in this area?