

The Good Life: The Presents God Gives Us

Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Introduction

- A. Review of the Good Life [Romans 12]
1. The source of the good life is God's mercy [1a]
 2. The good life is good, pleasing, and complete (lacking nothing needed to be good and pleasing, i.e., perfect) because it is about worship of God. [1b]
 3. To live the good life, we need to transform our thinking about who we are and our place in the body of Christ. [3-5]
 - a. Unity (organic unity of one body)
 - b. Diversity (functional diversity of many members)
 - c. Mutuality (necessary interdependence of each member with each other member and the whole)
 - Unity > Diversity → Dependence
 - Unity < Diversity → Independence
 - Unity + Diversity → Mutuality
 4. To live the good life, God gives presents (spiritual gifts) to Christians, each with a proper use. [6-8]
- B. Spiritual gifts come from one source (God) for one purpose (the common good). [1 Corinthians 12]
1. Religion which is genuinely spiritual confesses Jesus as Lord [1-3]
 2. The triune God (who is diversity in unity, three persons in one Godhead) is at work in the body of Christ [4-6]
 - a. The Trinity, the triune God, is at work in us.
 - b. The Spirit: different kinds of gifts. [4]
What we do
 - c. The Lord: different kinds of service or ministries [5]
How or where we do it.
 - d. God (the Father): different kinds of working(s), effects, or activities [6]
The results of using our gift.
 - e. 1 Peter 4:10

3. All spiritual gifts have a common purpose, the common good. [7-11]
4. The diversity with unity of spiritual gifts is illustrated by the human body. [12:12-31a]
 - a. The church's unity in diversity and diversity in unity is illustrated by the human body. [12:12-13]
 - b. The necessity of diversity in a unity is illustrated by the human body and applied to the church. [12:14-20]
 - c. The necessity of unity in a diversity is illustrated by the human body and applied to the church. [12:21-26]
 - d. The doctrine of diversity with unity is applied to the church and gifts. [12:27-31a]

Application

1. God gives presents (spiritual gifts) to us and the church to live the good life.
2. Determining your spiritual gift
 - a. Consider the following.
 - a) The extent of your prior ministry use of this talent, ability, or gift.
 - b) The work of the Spirit, especially in producing the fruit of the Spirit experienced when using this talent, ability, or gift for ministry.
 - c) The recognition by others (especially those close to you and those in leadership) and yourself of spiritual fruit that was produced when you used this talent, ability, or gift.
 - b. The best way to identify a spiritual gift is actual experience. Get involved in ministry by offering to serve wherever there is a need. Listen to what more mature believers observe in your ministry, look for spiritual fruit, and pray for sensitivity to God's working in you. After a time, your gift will be seen.