

Right Thinking Leads To Right Service - II

Review and Introduction

- Last week we looked at Rom. 12:1-5.
- Thinking about what Jesus has done for us: **1)** In His **mercy**, God helped us in our troubles throughout life [v. 1], **2)** God has chosen to reveal **His will** to us [v. 2], **3)** Thru **grace**, God gave us blessings & not the punishment we deserved [v. 3], **4)** We have been joined to Christ & each other in **His body** [v. 4-5].
- Thinking about what we must do for Jesus: **1)** We should willingly make our **bodies** available to God for sacrificial service [v. 1], **2)** We should fill our **minds** with & be controlled by the word of God [v. 2], **3)** We must not have exaggerated thoughts of **self-worth** in ministry [v. 3], **4)** We must value **diversity** in ministry & **unity** in our structure as a body [v. 4-5].
- Problems at the Corinthian church: factions (ch. 1), immaturity (ch. 3), arrogance (ch. 4), sexual immorality (ch. 5), lawsuits (ch. 6), marriage (ch. 7), idolatry (ch. 8,10). Many problems surfaced when they came together to worship (ch. 11-14).

I. Thinking About Who & What Is Spiritual (v. 1-3)

- A. Christians can be uninformed (1Co. 12:1)
*Christians can be lacking in knowledge & insight while thinking they understand **who & what is spiritual**. We assume that we know people, know what's right & what's going on. God does not want us to remain uninformed or deceived, but we must be honest & admit our need for help.*
- B. Christians need to remember our past errors (1Co. 12:2)
*Christians must remember that we made errors in the past when we felt like we were right in our understanding (Pr. 21:2) – we were led by **feelings & emotions**. We must remember so that we are not led into error again!*
- C. Christians need to exercise discernment (1Co. 12:3)
*The fact that someone **says** God told them to say or do something **does not** mean that it is true (1Jn. 4:1). Spiritually inspired speaking is no guarantee of being from the Holy Spirit (Ac. 16:16-18). The HS leads people to **speak & live** holy – lives match their words (Jas. 1:25; Mt. 7:24-27).*

II. Thinking About Unity In Diversity (v. 4-7)

- A. Varieties of spiritual gifts (1Co. 12:4)
These are grace gifts – not earned by human achievement or status in life. There are varieties of special abilities given to individual believers, but all come from the HS to produce unity.
- B. Varieties of ministries (1Co. 12:5)
A ministry is simply a way that we serve God & His people. There are varieties of ways to serve, but they all come for the same Lord to produce unity.
- C. Varieties of effects (1Co. 12:6)
There are many supernatural effects that result from us using our special abilities in service to God & His people. God Himself produces the supernatural effects in order to bring about unity without pride & arrogance.
- D. Manifestation for the common good (1Co. 12:7)
“To each” – each individual believer is equipped to be effective in the body, no exceptions. “manifestation” means to make known or reveal. The HS is making known or revealing something about Himself thru the spiritual gifts given to each individual in the body – the way He loves, provides, comforts, shows mercy, etc.. This manifestation of the HS is for the benefit of the entire body – to edify.

ILL: A good teacher invests something special in each student; a good coach... or supervisor.... That student reveals something about his/her teacher; athlete reveals...coach; employee reveals...supervisor.

APPL: The same is true for the Christian. As we minister our spiritual gifts in the body of Christ, we reveal something about the character of the Holy Spirit and our great God! The HS has invested in us – His life, character, power, light & love!

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ we must all exercise discernment when someone claims something is from God – new vision, understanding... Beware of following your feelings & emotions that leads to disunity – not from God. We must all agree that new life (spiritual life) begins with the Holy Spirit. The HS must first regenerate a sinner before he/she can even see their need for Jesus & believe – born again/born from above (Jn. 3:3). The HS put new life (spiritual life) in a sinner who then realizes the need for Jesus as Savior & Lord; He gives the sinner faith to believe in Jesus. Then the HS joins the believer to Jesus for all of the benefits of eternal life (2Co. 5:17) – New Creation! The HS then dwells in the believer to continually give spiritual life, discernment, power to love, resist sin, use spiritual gifts; He give us the sp. gifts, desire to serve, ministries & wonderful results. It all begins with **God** & it's all of **grace**. So we must thank Him, praise, love & adore Him...

If you are not a Christian, then this new life awaits you. You can have it today. **The HS is here today to change your heart, give you new life; give you faith to believe in Jesus. The gospel...**

SUBJECT: Right Thinking Leads To Right Service - II

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