

GOD'S GIFTS TO HIS CHURCH

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:38 ESV

INTRODUCTION

We have all been given gifts from God. These gifts are not to be used to bring glory to ourselves, but glory to God through the church. Many people waste their whole life trying to be something they are not, or wishing they were made differently. God uniquely made and gifted us with the specific purpose of building up his church.

I. PRIDE ROBBS GOD OF GLORY

"If you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, 'How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronize me, or show off?'"

C.S. Lewis

"Pride is the carbon monoxide of sin. It silently and slowly kills you without you even knowing."

Timothy Keller

Our church believes that God is sovereign over our salvation, but we can easily forget that he is also sovereign over the giftings we have. Even if we worked hard to perfect the giftings he gave us, it was him who gave us the grace to perfect them.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10

17 Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' 18 You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Pride will rob God of glory because it detracts from making it all about him. Remember: We as a church are called to make Christ look beautiful.

II. GOD GIVES GIFTS TO HIS BODY

Vs. 6-8

We do not discover our giftings by spending two weeks meditating in a cabin in the mountains; we see them come out when we place ourselves in community. Nothing will reveal your gifting more than loving the community of God faithfully.

All of these gifts are services to the church:

Prophecy Infallible. **Service** Serve God's bride faithfully. **Teaching** Study. **Exhorts** Encourage others in their giftings. **Contributes** Generously! **Leads** Zeal! Pray for those under you. **Acts of Mercy** With cheerfulness.

It is only by God's grace that we were given these gifts. The main purpose of our giftings are to bring glory to God not ourselves. We are the bride of Christ. Are we making him look beautiful to San Diego?

III. ONE BODY FOR HIS GLORY

Vs. 4-5

We are one body in Christ. We are all on the same team, so there is no room for spiritual superiority.

26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 1

Corinthians 12:26

Whose kingdom are you building? What changes would you make if you started to seek God's kingdom more than your own?

"If you could just have a good job with a good wife, or husband, and a couple of good kids and a nice car and long weekends and a few good friends, a fun retirement, and a quick and easy death, and no hell – if you could have all that (even without God) – you would be satisfied. That is a tragedy in the making. A wasted life."

John Piper

Conclusion

Let us be marked as a Church that uses our giftings to bring glory to God, a church that rejoices when others are honored, and a church that chooses to glorify God by building up his kingdom instead of our own.