

Foundations of Church for “Body Life Ministry” - Romans 12:1-8

09/20/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Romans 12:1-8

Therefore I urge (beg, beseech, plead with) you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies **A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE**, acceptable to God, which is your **REASONABLE SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP**. ² And **DO NOT** be **CONFORMED** to this world, but be **TRANSFORMED** by the **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, so that you may **PROVE** what the will of God is, that which is **GOOD** and **ACCEPTABLE** and **PERFECT**.

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.

PRIMARY - #1 Priority is doing → Romans 12:1-2 → Individually My Priority, Personally:

Romans 12:1-2 covers each born-again disciple's personal, individual relationship with God. Each, individual disciple **must** be fully surrendered unto God: body, mind, soul, spirit, and heart ... Fully surrendered, dedicated, submitted, committed and devoted unto God, His Word and to **Live ONLY** for God, in Christ Jesus **according** to His Holy Word, the Bible.

Each, individual disciple must be **Renewed** in his/her mind by reading, studying, meditating upon, memorizing and applying **God's Holy Word** -> so that he/she becomes more and more **progressively Transformed** by God into the Image of Christ, **DAILY**.

Romans 12:1-2 covers each individual's **responsibility** regarding his/her own relationship with God in Christ Jesus our LORD and Savior. It covers our personal, daily surrender to God and our personal, **prayerful study** of God's Holy Word ... reading, studying, meditating upon, memorizing, and applying God's Word in our individual lives. This is why Christ emphasized this in **Matthew 6:5-8**

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, **GO INTO YOUR ROOM AND SHUT THE DOOR AND PRAY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN SECRET**. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

We **MUST** have our own, personal, Quiet Time with God, personal, individual time with God, daily, in which we Pray to God and Study His Word. This is our Health in Christ in the Spirit. Just like we must have physical food for our Physical Bodies, so it is we need Spiritual Food for our soul, mind, heart, and spirit (the non-material, non-physical reality of who we are). This is our Time of Daily Surrender unto God, praising Him, thanking Him, seeking Him, wanting Him ... communing with Him. This is our time of reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating upon His Holy Word, the Bible. This is the **MOST IMPORTANT** thing we must do, Daily, more important than food ... therefore make it that Important ... don't push it aside for other things ... if it is the Most Important, in reality, you will make it your #1 Priority above anything else. What people value, they will prioritize ... we see the fruit of this in people's lives, every day.

Romans 12:3-8 – this relates to each individual, born-again, disciple in his or her **RELATIONSHIP** with other born-again, disciples of Christ in his or her **LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY**. It is in relationship with others that the Gospel is lived out in real life. But, we must understand this ... in order for a local church family to be Healthy in Christ, each of her members must be, individually, healthy in his or her relationship with God. The collective “health” of a local church is a reflection of the collective individual members’ health in Christ in His Word. This is why Paul starts out in Romans 12:1-2 focused on the individual disciple’s surrender and the individual disciple’s soaking of God’s Word in Renewing his or her mind, etc. This personal walk with God is a must, and **PRIMARY**. When disciples of Christ depend too much on the “church”, on other people in the local church family, that is when problems develop ... this is why 1st & 2nd Corinthians was written ... to address “I am follow Paul” ... “I am follow Apollos”, etc...

Personality Driven churches are NOT Biblical ... they are the MOST DANGEROUS churches

As a Pastor my FIRST Goal is Romans is help those under my pastoral care to understand and internalize Romans chapters 1 thru 11 ... and **DO and Make a Daily Practice** of Romans 12:1-2

My **Second Goal** – is almost as important ... to see the local church, overall, I am overseeing in Christ, to be the most healthy in Christ as possible ... that is the emphasis of Romans 12:3-8

³For 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and **INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER**. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **LET US USE THEM**: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the 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.

We can compare this passage with 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Corinthians 12 – we will look at in the next few weeks in relationship with Romans 12:3ff ...

So, let's look at 1 Peter 4:7-11 today ... see how it parallels Romans 12:3-8:

⁷Now the end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and disciplined for prayer. ⁸Above all, maintain an intense love for each other, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, it should be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, it should be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

This is an overview of the local churches’ Peter is addressing.

In his Pastoral-Elder oversight, he wants the best for them and wants them to be the most spiritually healthy in Christ that they can be, within each local church family.

Prayerful, Disciplined, Mutually Loving toward one another, Hospitable, etc.

They are Each to use the Spiritual Gifts they received from God’s Spirit because they are born again ... they are to use those Gifts to build each other up ... use them to the fullest for the Glory of God ... not to bring glory to themselves.

What brings Glory to God → in this context → a healthy, doctrinally sound, on-fire for Christ, local church family that is sharing the Gospel with the lost, making disciples, and growing in Christ in Quality and in Quantity. It all starts with each individual’s walk with Christ, personally.

In the context of fellow believers, each individual must be focused, like a laser beam, on how each disciple can build up others in Christ, encourage others in Christ according to the Spiritual Gifts, Talents and Abilities God has given each individual disciple in Christ.

When you come to a gathering of the saints ... you should be prayed up ...

God please use me to build up others in Christ ...

God how can I serve you most effectively in the context of my local church family?

Please empower me, please fill me with your Holy Spirit, please lead me to be used of you most effectively and fruitfully.

Again, this is SECONDARY ... it is SECOND to your Personal Relationship with Christ. But it is almost as important ... in fact, your Personal Walk with Christ makes NO Sense without being a part of a local church family. So, both go and hand-in-hand. One cannot exist without the other.

My personal Walk includes me asking God to use me to build up others in Christ.

In my Local Church Fellowship in Christ ... I am being Encouraged in my Personal Walk with Christ, as well. Both context help the other ... Personal helps the Gathering ... the Gathering helps the Personal.

It is like the Two Wings of a Bird... both help the Bird to Soar on the Thermals ...



credit: http://cdn.wallpapersbuzz.com/image/345/b_soaring-eagle.jpg

Next week we will look at more of the specifics.

This week was an Intro into the Conceptual Level ... the Over Arching Principles of what God is aiming at, here in Romans 12.

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1. What is our, individual, first priority as born-again disciples in Christ? (hint Romans 12:1-2)

a. Su_____ unto Christ, Daily

b. Re_____ my M_____ in God's Holy W_____, Daily

2. With this first priority for every born-again believer, how did Jesus address this in Matt. 6:5-8?

Go into your R_____ and shut the D_____

Is this a Command from Christ or a casual suggestion that is optional?

What does this imply?

3. If Romans 12:1-2 addresses our individual, personal relationship with and responsibility before God, what does Romans 12:3-8 address/focus on?

4. What type of church is Dangerous, according to Paul (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-5)?

P_____ D_____ “church”

5. What is the goal of Romans 12:3-8?

To make a local church, the most H_____ it can be in Christ.

A Doct_____ Sound, On-F_____ local church family that is sharing the G_____ of Christ is a H_____ church in Christ

6. What should be some of the goals of each individual disciple be when we Gather in Christ (publicly and house-to-house)? (also, see 1 Peter 4:7-11)

a. To be P_____ ed Up to be used of God, for others.

b. To use my Spiritual G_____s God has given me to B_____ up others in Christ, as He leads me.