

## **“Different by Design”**

**Romans 12:3-13, Romans 7:21-25**

Purpose of Message: To show the Diversity yet the unity of the body of Christ

Lesson aim: to challenge the people of God to seek the divine purpose for their lives, and to walk in the specific calling God has placed on their lives, and that by doing so the Body of Christ (Bethels Family) can fulfill her call on the earth

Illustration: Lamp and the ORIGINAL purpose of why the lamp was made. Although the lamp is beautiful, it is athletically pleasing to look at, it adds to the décor of your office. The original design of the lamp was to be more than something pretty to look at! The ORIGINAL design of the lamp was to give off light! This lamp can be used in dark places; it can be used to help you find something that was lost. Although the lamp is beautiful to look at (the beauty) is a by-product of the original design. How many of us have pretty lamps that are not plugged in?

### **Romans 12:3-13**

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them:* if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; <sup>or</sup> ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

<sup>9</sup> *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; <sup>11</sup> not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; <sup>13</sup> distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

### **Romans 7:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. <sup>23</sup> *But* I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

## I. Identify my purpose (v3-8)

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

For as **we have many members** in one body, but all the members **do not have the same function**, so we, *being* many, are **one body in Christ**, and **individually** members of one another. <sup>6</sup> Having then **gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- A. I first must identify my purpose
- B. We have many members but the many members are ONE BODY!
- C. Although I am part of a corporate body ( I am an individual)
  - a. People must be delivered from trying to mimic other people
  - b. I must understand my specific calling, and then use that calling for the corporate body!
- D. **There is an individual anointing BUT for given for a Corporate BLESSING!**
- E. Every individual must find his or her special place where they are operating in effectively (the old saints used to say “stay in your lane”)
- F. God has given each believer some faith by which to serve Him.
- G. The point is that **each member** functions to serve the body, not the body to serve the members.
- H. **The diversity of the many accompanies the unity of the body.**
- I. **We have different gifts** (cf. v. 4, “not all have the same function”; cf. 1 Cor. 12:4).
  - a. **We all can’t be the same!**
  - b. **If all of us were the same then a lot of us would not be necessary!**
- J. The grace-gifts (*charismata*) are **according to God’s grace** (*charis*).
- K. The Greek text is much more abrupt than any English translation; **let him** is supplied for smoother English.
- L. One’s “prophesying” is to be done **in proportion to his faith**; a better translation would be “in agreement to the (not his) faith.” That is, prophesying—communicating God’s message, to strengthen, encourage, and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3)—**is to be in right relationship to the body of truth already revealed** (cf. “faith” as doctrine in Gal. 1:23; Jude 3, 20).
- M.

## II. Identify my need (v9-13)

Let **love** be without hypocrisy. **Abhor what is evil**. Cling to what is good, *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another, Not lagging in diligence, **fervent in spirit**, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> **rejoicing in**

**hope**, patient in tribulation, **continuing steadfastly in prayer**; <sup>13</sup>distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality

- A. Once I have identified my purpose, I then need to identify what I NEED to make my purpose a reality!
- B. There are things given to me by God in order that the purpose of God on y life might be manifested!
- C. Let men see your good work that they might glorify your father in heaven
- D. **LOVE** is the fuel needed to perfect the purpose of God in my life
- E. **Love must be sincere**. This is God's love, which has been ministered to believers by the Holy Spirit (5:5) and must be ministered by them to others in the Holy Spirit's power
- F. **As we must remember that that God judges the intent of the heart**
  - a. **Man looks at the outer appearance but God.... (1 Samuel 16)**
- G. Evil intentions distort our purpose!
- H. The enemy is trying desperately to get the believer off of their God given path!
- I. Evil is an avenue that the enemy uses to distract believers from what God is doing in and through their lives!
- J. **Turning from evil is to accompany adhering to the good (cf. 1 Peter 3:11)**
- K. Remember once **ITURN FROM SOMETHING I MUST TURN TO SOMETHING ELSE**
- L. Divine love is to be exercised with other believers. The Greek adjective *philostorgoi*, translated **devoted**, suggests family affection
- M. Paul then provided a series of exhortations concerning a believer's personal attitudes, attitudes that will make him more attractive to others
- N. **Never . . . lacking** ("not shrinking, not hesitating, not being lazy") **in zeal** (en spoudē, "diligence," rendered "diligently" in 12:8), and being fervent in spirit. **Keep your spiritual fervor** is literally, "**being fervent, or boiling** (, used only here and in Acts 18:25 of Apollos) in the spirit"
- O. As believers serve God as His slaves they should be enthusiastic and diligent
- P. They are to **be joyful in hope**, because their hope in Christ is the basis of their rejoicing (5:2-5; 1 Peter 1:6-9)
- Q. **In affliction** (*thlipsei*, "distress, trouble, pressure"; cf. Rom. 8:35)
- R. believers are to be **patient** ("being steadfast, having endurance"; cf. 5:3).
- S. Also Christians should continue **in prayer** to God **for wisdom, guidance, and strength** (cf. 1 Thes. 5:17).
- T. **Being faithful**

### III. **Identify my Help! (7:21-25)**

<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, **that evil is present with me**, the one who wills to do good. <sup>22</sup> For **I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.** <sup>23</sup> **But** I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.** <sup>24</sup> **O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?** <sup>25</sup> **I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

- A. Not that I have identified “My Purpose”, I have identified what I need to perfect “My Purpose” now I must identify My Help!
- B. Because I understand that my mere human strength or will power cannot achieve the purpose by which I was created I must look to help!
- C. Because “evil” is present with me constantly trying to deter me from the plan of God
- D. Paul understood the constant battle between what was right and what was wrong!
- E. In understanding the war he described himself as wretched!
  - a. This word means: deeply afflicted, dejected, or distressed in body or mind extremely or **deplorably bad or distressing**
  - b. In coming to that reality that we ALL MUST come to. He said WHO CAN DELIEVER ME?
- F. This body of death symbolized when a person was convicted of murder in the day of Paul, that the convicted man would be sentenced to carrying the body of the dead corpse on his body around town, All the while yelling out “dead man walking”
- G. Paul says the JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DELIEVER ME!