

THEME: Contentment follows humility!

TEXT: Romans 12:1-3

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your 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 through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

1. GIFTS RECEIVED

A. "For through the grace"

1. The grace Paul received as God's apostle and to reveal God's Word.
2. c.f. 1 Timothy 1:12-14

B. "given to me"

1. Received, not earned or deserved; a gift from God.

C. "I say to everyone among you"

1. A command for all believers, regardless of gender, age, spiritual maturity, or even leadership roles in the church

2. HUMILITY PURSUED

A. "not to think more highly of himself"

1. Form of 'phroneo' ("think") used 4 times here in verse 3.

B. "than he ought to think"

1. Not to overvalue our abilities, to make an accurate estimate of self.
2. This is the definition of genuine HUMILITY.
3. (Galatians 6:3) "For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself."
4. (1 Corinthians 4:7) "...What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"
5. c.f. 1 Peter 5:5

C. "but to think"

1. Don't stop thinking, if you're still thinking too highly of yourself.

D. "so as to have sound judgment"

2. Should bring a recognition that we are nothing at all, but in Christ we are used to bring glory in whatever way God decides.

3. CONTENTMENT ACHIEVED

A. "as God has allotted to each"

1. Thinking rightly should lead us to know that God has distributed His spiritual gifts according to His own choosing.

2. The correct measure of the spiritual gift that God sovereignly bestows on each believer.
- B. "a measure of faith"
 1. To humbly embrace who you are in Christ and how He has gifted you, is to ACHIEVE CONTENTMENT.
 2. (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11) "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."
 3. (1 Peter 4:10) "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

EXAMPLES OF HUMILITY AND CONTENTMENT

1. John the Baptist - (c.f. John 3:25-30)
2. Apostle Paul - (c.f. 2 Corinthians 12:7:10)

POINTS OF APPLICATION and DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you doing in your pursuit of godly humility and contentment? Are YOU increasing, or is GOD increasing in you?
2. We all need to "get away" for a time to "think" about what God wants to do in and through us. What is God wanting to do in and through you?
3. What spiritual gifts has God given to you? Have you ever done a personal inventory of your giftedness?
4. God uniquely gifted you among all other believers on Earth. Are you content or discontent with how God has gifted you?
5. God specifically positioned you in your community and this church for a reason during this season. What is the reason?
6. What is your ministry? God assigns ministries based on the giftedness He has already given you.
7. It can't be said that you are truly worshiping God if you are not serving God in ministry. Any attempt to worship God while refusing to serve Him is spiritual hypocrisy, not humility. Are you truly worshiping the Lord or are you just showing up?