

THEME: Contentment follows humility!

READ 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.

MAIN POINTS:

- I. Gifts Received
 - II. Humility Pursued
 - III. Contentment Achieved
-

I. GIFTS RECEIVED

A. "For through the grace"

1. "For" - a transition from what was just commanded in verses 1 and 2.
2. The basis of everything worthwhile a Christian has and does, from salvation to service.
3. SPECIFICALLY: The grace Paul received as God's apostle and authorized to reveal God's Word.
4. **1 Timothy 1:12-14** *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus."*

B. "given to me"

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

C. "I say to everyone among you"

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

II. 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, gifts, or worth, but to make an accurate estimate of self.
2. The definition of 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. **1 Peter 5:5** *"You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

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"

1. Compound verb meaning: "think with a sound mind; think soberly"
2. Should bring a recognition that we are nothing at all, but in Christ we're used to bring glory in whatever way God decides.

III. 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. JOHN MACARTHUR: *"The New Testament does not promise that our gift will come neatly packaged and labeled. Nor does it precisely identify the specific gift of any New Testament believer, including the apostles. Believers in the early church were never classified by gifts. On the contrary, the New Testament makes clear that God endows His children with many combinations and degrees of giftedness. He mixes these gifts much as an artist mixes colors on his palette to create the exact shade he desires for a particular part of the painting."*
3. **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."*
4. **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

- **John 3:25-30** *"Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease."*

2. Apostle Paul

- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** *"Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."*

POINTS OF APPLICATION

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?

THEME: Contentment follows humility!