



# ROMANS 12:3-8

*This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.*

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## 1. SERIES OVERVIEW

### A. Goal of Series

Since the pandemic began, our church has added many new members and grown tremendously. However, due to the restrictions and various health reasons, many have never been to physical service or had much interaction or fellowship with the people of our church family, aside from digital means. Whilst it's been exciting to grow during this period, we do not want to assume that the most important value of our church – Gospel Centrality, has been grasped by all who are at Redemption Hill Church. Therefore, we want to use this series to lay these foundations very clearly in the church. Some goals include:

- Teaching about the gospel itself, and what it means to be part of a community where the gospel is at the heart of all that we do.
- Laying out the basics and foundations of our faith very clearly and explicitly.
- Romans 8: This chapter elaborates on God's victory over our sin. God's grace is given to us in the here and now (the power of the Spirit, the certainty of the hope we have, the knowledge that all things are working for our good), and that we can live as conquerors here despite our sufferings.
- Romans 12: The letter shifts from the indicatives (what God has done for us) to the imperatives (how we are to respond to God). This chapter elaborates on how we must respond to God's mercies and how we are to live offering up our bodies as living sacrifices. It also demonstrates the reality of living out God's grace and love is how a church culture shaped by the gospel looks like.



## B. Summary

Each and every Christian is saved by grace and joined into the body of Christ. And by that same grace of God, they are given different gifts, each according to God's design for them. Since they are all members of Jesus' body, their differences should not compel them to pride/ self-righteousness or separation. Rather, it ought to compel them to humility as Christians need one another in the body of Christ, to build the body of Christ up faithfully, through reflecting the love that stems from the gospel.

## C. Big Idea

Every Christian has been gifted uniquely in different aspects of the faith and gifts by grace. Understanding this should compel us to use these gifts to build up the body of Christ with humility and love.

## D. CG Takeaway

For us to 1) give thanks, and reorientate our hearts towards the gospel, 2) consider what gifts God has given us, and 3) consider how we can use them in light of the gospel and the gifts that God has given us.

## E. Fallen Condition Focus

- Harboring an attitude of pride because of our gifts, which leads to self-righteousness, lack of grace towards others, glorifying ourselves, thinking we do not need other Christians to live out our faith because we look down on others as not being worthy to speak into our lives.
- Exercising our gifts with the wrong motivations, or exercising them towards the wrong goals, such as glorifying ourselves, or promoting these gifts rather than the gospel.

### **Interpretation and Observation**

**(Read the text notes to have a comprehensive understanding and help for the answers for this section)**

Briefly recap Romans 12:1-2. How does v1-2 lead into v3-8?

Notice the repeated use of the word “grace” used by Paul in v3 and v6: What is Paul trying to show here with regards to the giftings of the Roman Christians? What does it mean to “think with sober judgement”?

What is Paul’s “body of Christ” an analogy for? How is it related to the different giftings of the Roman Christians?

What does Paul mean when he says “if prophecy, in proportion to our faith”?

### **Gospel Applications**

#### **A. Fallen condition:**

Think about the way we serve in the church. What are some signs that reveal that we are thinking of ourselves “more highly than we ought to think”? (v3) Why are the sinful reasons that often lead to this mindset?

Consider some of our giftings. Are there any gifts that we have held back from investing in the body of Christ? If so, why?

#### **B. Personal Renewal:**

How does the death and resurrection of Jesus empower and shape our hearts for serving? How does it guard our hearts against pride or insincerity in serving?

Consider specific giftings that you feel like God has given you. How can they lead to the building up of the body of Christ in the context of the community we are in and in the whole church?

#### **C. Shaping Church Culture:**

Paul says that in our community “the members do not all have the same function...Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.” (Rom 12:4-6) This implies that we all have been given gifts. Go around the room and affirm one another’s giftings. Consider how we can use them to point one another to the gospel of Jesus Christ in concrete and consistent ways.