

Romans: The Gospel

The Same Mind

Romans 12:3-21

<p><i>Vulcan mind meld</i> <i>Pacific Rim, neural bridge, "drift"</i></p> <p>[Pray] :3</p> <p>Grace brings <u>humility</u></p> <p>An <u>honest</u> assessment of self and of others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think lowly of yourself • Think highly of others <p>Proverbs 25:6-7 - Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.</p> <p>Proverbs 27:2 - Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.</p>	<p>Think <u>soberly</u></p> <p>Not just alcohol or drugs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound mind - not crazy thoughts • Self control - rational responses • Moderate estimate of self - not too highly, not too lowly • Curb your enthusiasm for <u>yourself!</u> <p><i>DG "inordinate pride that often arises from those who regard themselves as spiritually gifted...spiritual giftedness does not equal spiritual maturity"</i></p> <p>A Measure of faith</p> <p>Metron - vessel for determining quantity, measuring rod, standard of judgment, determined extent</p> <p>Everyone gets a <u>portion</u></p> <p><i>Luke 17 - increase our faith, amount isn't important, <u>but how it's used</u></i></p>
<p>Faith is only faith if it's used!</p> <p>You gotta exercise it</p> <p><i>Mo Money Mo problems</i> <i>Mo Problems Mean Mo Opportunities (to Exercise Faith)</i></p>	<p>The key:</p> <p>We can't measure ourselves with the measure God has given someone else <u>Only what we do with what we're given</u></p> <p><i>Stewardship of faith <u>itself</u> is the real stewardship</i></p>
<p>:4-5</p> <p>Many Members, One Body</p>	<p>Cells, mitochondria, organs, tissues, limbs, stem cells</p>

<p>Try living without one organ or part - or one broken</p> <p>Might learn to live without some, but it's not <u>best</u> Some can't live without at all</p>	<p>Individuals, Together Together Jesus' body <i>Power rangers</i></p> <p>"Unity not uniformity" - be <u>yourself</u> in Jesus</p>
<p>A part separated from the body...dies</p> <p>Proverbs 18:1 - A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.</p> <p>You're not wiser by being alone, being above help You're not weaker for asking for help, knowing you need it</p> <p><i>Montana spirit</i> <i>Epidemic of suicide, feeling alone</i></p>	<p>We should mature <u>past</u> being overly needy But we still need each other Not "co-dependent" but holy dependent</p> <p>There are things about <u>you</u> that are good for <u>me</u></p> <p>There are things about <u>me</u> that are good for <u>you</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like a team, more like a family • Spiritually and practically
<p>:6-8</p> <p><i>Bullet points of faith in action: v6-21</i></p> <p>Gifts how? All Grace (too)</p> <p>Remember - gifts from God's grace, not your merit!</p> <p><u>Grace is the gasoline for gifts!</u></p>	<p>We all have gifts! Different AND differing!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Different people, different gifts, used the same way</i> • <i>Different people, same gift, used differently</i> <p>Same but different, different but same <i>Veins vs. arteries</i></p>
<p>Let us <u>use</u> them! "Freely received freely given" Use it or lose it? I hope not...there are no vestigial organs in the body of Christ!</p>	<p><i>Nice cars at the museum, might be nicer if they were driven</i> <i>If your gifts are on the shelf, take them down and use them!</i></p>

<p>Proportion to faith</p> <p><i>your measure will not run out</i></p> <p>Matthew 17:20 - So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prophecy - forth telling of the Word ● Ministry - serving practically ● Teaching - instruction of doctrine ● Exhortation - put it into practice (fat sheep) ● Giving (liberally) - can't outgive God, important for the work (send!) ● Leading (diligently) - leading is tough, don't give up - <i>bough of a ship</i> ● Mercy (cheerful) - how often we're unhappy to be merciful
<p>Remember, GIFTS!</p> <p>We can't exercise these without faith. Without the Spirit.</p> <p>Spirit given. Spirit led.</p>	<p>For example...</p> <p>Gift of mercy Because there's no way you'd be merciful to that person or situation</p>
<p>:9</p> <p>Love Phileo, eros, storge, agape</p> <p>Can't be hypocritical Unfeigned, undisguised, sincere</p> <p>Fake love ain't love</p>	<p><i>We can smell a fake, insincere compliment, see a fake smile</i></p> <p><i>We know right away when it's real Sometimes doubt it because we've never experienced it</i></p> <p>The mark of the Christian is LOVE <i>true, agape love</i></p>
<p>What to do with evil? Have a <u>horror</u> of it!</p> <p>What's your attitude towards evil? Horror or homage?</p>	<p>What to do with good? Be joined to! Glued to it!</p> <p><i>Tool Time - glues his head to the board</i></p> <p><i>Commands of God on the frontlets between our eyes - Deut 6:8</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Don't just observe, be a <u>part</u>! ● Don't just say, <u>do</u>! 	<p>Is it good? Glue it! Is it evil? Shoo it!</p>

<p>:10-13</p> <p>Kindly affectionate brotherly love</p> <p><i>What's your attitude towards other believers?</i></p> <p>Not just preference, <u>honorable</u> preference</p> <p>It's hard to prefer someone else <i>Last cookie</i></p> <p>But that's where the joy is!</p> <p>John 15:11-12 - "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."</p>	<p>Not lagging in diligence - don't skip a beat Dilligence requires...dilligence!</p> <p>The answer to hope isn't the rejoicing The rejoicing is found <u>IN</u> the hoping</p> <p><i>"I asked the Lord for patience, he threw me into the waiting"</i></p> <p>Tribulation (suffering trials) takes patience to get through</p> <p><i>Morris - "active...endurance...deep and serious trouble"</i></p> <p>How much do you pray for something, someone, situation?</p> <p>The things that truly need prayer are things that need A LOT of prayer. Hard prayer.</p>
<p>Acts > distribution > deacons</p> <p>Hospitality, old world hotels bed and breakfast,</p> <p>Requirement for leadership</p>	<p>You don't have to run a hotel, but especially for the gospel's sake, be willing to host</p> <p>The world doesn't know this kind of love, use the things of the world to draw people to Jesus</p>
<p>:14-15</p> <p>Sometimes we bless begrudgingly... <u>might as well not bless!</u></p> <p>2 Cor 9:7 ...God loves a <u>cheerful</u> giver</p> <p><u>Your gifts are for giving</u> Given to you for you to give away</p>	<p>Your gifts are not for your glory - for His For the blessing of others</p> <p>We should look at pain and joy the way others are looking at them <i>Memorial service</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coming alongside in grief ● Rejoicing when someone has good <p><i>Far too often...it's the <u>opposite</u></i></p>

:16

The kicker

Be of the same mind toward one another

Remember why? Grace and mercy of God
Remember why? Jesus did it for us first

**Our renewed minds need to be renewed for each other
...in light of the grace and gifts God has given us all.**

So what do we do?

- Associate with the **humble**
- **Surround yourself** with the people you want to be like

Our struggles with one another are because we don't have the right mind - thoughts, attitudes, perceptions

James 4:1 - Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

BUT I WAS WRONGED!
What about them?

BUT I WAS WRONGED FIRST/MORE
Ok, but what about Jesus and you?

I'M BETTER THAN THEM, i'm the boss, i'm smarter, more spiritual

If you are more spiritual, lift them up!

A renewed mind perceives itself rightly

Rightly seeing yourself helps you correctly see others
(and vice versa)

Matthew 7:3-5 - "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

(Matt. 7 right judgment)

We all think we're wise... in our own opinion

But what does the word of God say?
Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

in humility, esteem others

Ephesians 4:29-32 - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

All of our thoughts, attitudes, opinions:

- Ourselves, others
- Right, wrong
- True, false
- Politics, family, church
- Course of our lives

Need to be shaped by scripture

And we need to be careful not to let scripture be our excuse to maintain our opinions and actions

- Ministers exalted to celebrity or holier than thou
- People thought of as incapable, not as important - unwashed masses
- Shepherding, not questioning weird things leaders do
- Putting down one and exalting the other - by how much we like them

- Or leaders who lead by example, as one of the flock
- "Lay" people in church capable of knowing the scripture for themselves
- Relationships out of sorts, abuse, strife
- One opinion more important than another

Or healthy, caring, fellowship and service to one another - in agape love

:17-21

We want to get even

Hockey pushing and shoving

Short and sweet answer: **Don't do it.**

"Provide things honest"

Take the high road. Do the right thing.
Be a bearer of grace.

Not to be seen, but let it be seen.

Philippians 4:5 - Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

*DG "People should be able to see **what is good and what is not** based on our **conduct.**"*

Even then...people will not want peace with you!

Peace deals fail. People like to fight!

You can only do your part -

be at peace with others as much as **possible.**

As much as **depends on you.**

If all you can do is peace at a distance, keep your distance. But don't cover it with self righteousness.

Peace means forgiveness, right seeing, but not reconciliation until the other party is there.

<p>Your renewed mind should remember: God is your defense</p> <p>Do the right thing - <u>let Him sort it out</u></p> <p><i>Would you rather defend yourself or get the best lawyer in town?</i></p> <p>Why do we act differently with God?</p> <p><i>A sure sign of a weak argument is defending yourself ad nauseum</i></p> <p><i>A sure sign of guilt is going on a PR campaign</i></p> <p><i>The truth will always come out</i></p>	<p>How do we overcome evil? <u>Always with good.</u></p> <p><i>Rock, paper, scissors</i></p> <p>Evil may <u>look</u> like it's winning But it's already <u>lost</u> - as the cross.</p> <p>So we have a responsibility: To do the right thing To say the right thing To live the right thing</p> <p><i>"Good men do nothing."</i></p> <p>James 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.</p>
<p><i>It's amazing how much of the church operates without this Scheming to get it over on another To keep power, to get vengeance, putting others down, exalting of self - politics</i></p> <p>When we'd be much more successful <u>spiritually</u> having the same mind toward each other</p> <p>John 15:8 - "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.</p>	<p><u>How?</u> A new heart, a changed mind - and the same mind - and gifts gassed by grace</p> <p>Not our righteousness. But Jesus'</p> <p>His Mind, His Spirit. through us: His body</p>