

**Identity Theft Sermon Series:
Part 4 – Let's Serve**

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

***The devil seeks to destroy the identity God has given us to serve.**

1) We need to get past ourselves (v. 3)

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

- A) Understand that grace has been given to all of us
 - 1) We've been given grace—getting what we don't deserve (v. 3)
 - 2) We've been given mercy—not getting what we do deserve (v. 1)

- B) Take an honest look at yourself
 - 1) Don't think too highly of yourself
 - 2) Don't think too lowly of yourself

2) We need to see that all of us form one body and have different responsibilities (functions). (v.4-5)

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

- A) We are not all the same
 - 1) Not everyone has the same responsibility
 - 2) Some responsibilities seem greater than others, but in reality we need all of them to truly function

- B) Each one of us belongs to each other
 - 1) Together we form the body of Christ
 - 2) Each member of the body belongs to all the others (unity)

3) We need to get in the right place and cultivate an environment of grace that allows each other to excel in their areas of service.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

A) Recognize your gifts and use them

- 1) Realize where your gift comes from
- 2) Realize that God expects you to use your gifts for Him
- 3) Empower others to serve
- 4) Realize others are gifted too

Get in the right place to enable them to serve—even if you have to get out of the way

Romans 12 causes me to see:

- God differently—God has given me gifts to use and that is my true act of worship. (v.1)
- Myself differently—I’m not better than everyone else, but I’m not useless either. (v. 3-5)
- Others differently—Others have gifts to use as well and I need to encourage them to use their gifts. (v.6-8)

Memory Verse

Romans 12:7 – If it is serving, let him serve, if it is teaching, let him teach.

