

A HOPE SERMON SERIES





This Week's Sermon: *Unity within Diversity* Romans 12:3-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

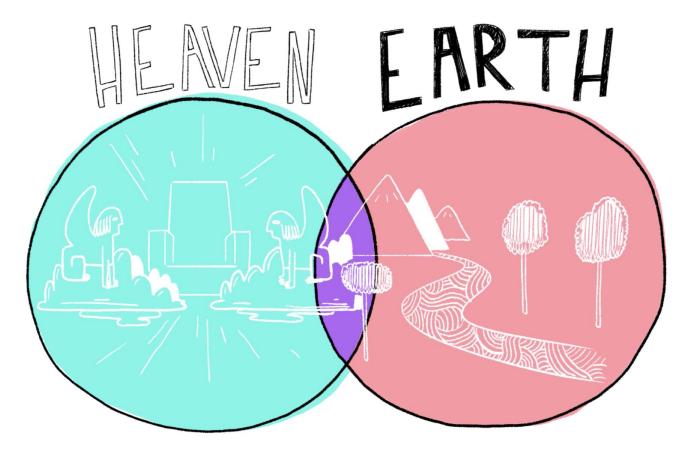
³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Think

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,



Matthew 6:9-13

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Temporal in mind

Temporal in mind

Friendship

Temporal in mind

Friendship Money

Temporal in mind

Friendship Money Sin

Temporal in mind

Friendship Money Sin Church

Humility

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think...



³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

But a true and objective estimate of ourselves requires that we have a standard against which to measure ourselves. And this, Paul says, we have, for God has "measured to each one a measure of faith."

Moo, D. J. (2018). <u>*The Letter to the Romans.*</u> (N. B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, G. D. Fee, & J. B. Green, Eds.) (Second Edition, p. 779). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

"Measure of faith" could refer to the faith held in common by all Christians. On this view, faith *is* the measure. Paul would be exhorting all believers to measure themselves by the same standard. By using the same yardstick, believers can arrive at a realistic and accurate assessment of themselves in relation to others. On this view, then, v. 3 connects especially with the main point of the sentence in vv. 4–5: the unity that characterizes the Christian "body." Moo, D. J. (2018). *The Letter to the Romans*. (N. B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, G. D. Fee, & J. B. Green, Eds.) (Second Edition, p. 779). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Humility in diversity

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.



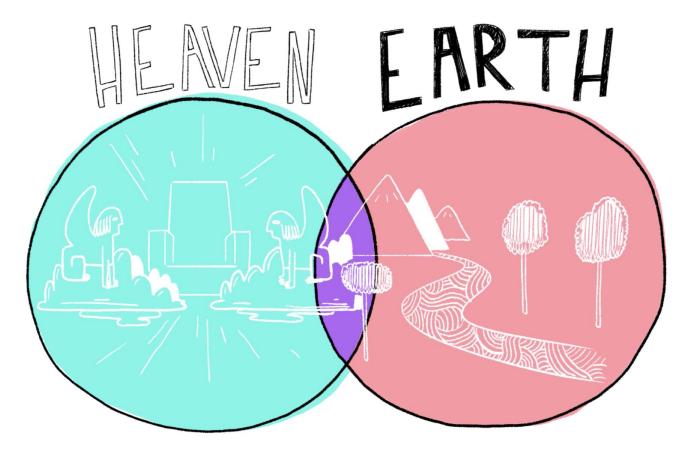


Unity in diversity

⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Are you helping with unity?

Are you helping with diversity?



Acts 1:6-8

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Application

Unified in and with the Gospel

Matthew 6:11-12

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.