

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 12:1-8.**
- B. When every member of the body of X does their part the church will grow in all aspects. We need to realize that even though we might consider ourself a small part of the body, we are essential to the growth of the church.
- C. This lesson focuses on the following points essential for spiritual and numerical growth:
 - 1. Holy living.
 - 2. Humble attitudes.
 - 3. Diversity in unity.
 - 4. Exercise (or use) our gifts.

I. HOLY LIVING IS ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 12:1-2.**

I urge you therefore, 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. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- B. Look closely at the words the apostle uses in speaking of our daily walk with X.
- C. Words such as:
 - 1) living - Xianity is a daily religion.
 - 2) sacrifice -- certain things must be given up.
 - 3) holy -- set apart (from the world).
 - 4) spiritual - our real nature, man is a living soul.
 - 5) worship -- to adore.
 - 6) conformed -- molded, we must remain flexible.
 - 7) transformed -- changed into a new form.
 - 8) prove - can be done only by doing.
- D. As we remain different from the world, we keep people looking at us as examples of a life that is different. When our life is different, they will then ask, 'do I want to be like that'?

II. HUMBLE ATTITUDES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH.

- A. Scripture text: Romans 12:3.

For through the grace given to me I say to every man 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.
- B. The grace means gift. Because of the gift of God's Son and His greatness we should never feel too proud about who we are.
- C. God gives grace to the humble, but opposed the proud (1Pet. 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.
- D. As God has given us ability let us use it and give Him the glory (1Pet. 4:11).

Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

III. DIVERSITY IN UNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH.

- A. Scripture text: Romans 12:4-5.

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- B. We are all one body, and all in X. This makes us one (Gal. 3:25ff).

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is

neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- C. But we do have different abilities and talents that are to be used. The whole church is not to be an eyeball, or ear (1Cor. 12:4-7; 19-21).

(1Cor 12:4-7) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

(1Cor 12:19-21) And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

- D. God has allotted or given special gifts that we might be able, as a church to do all things.

- E. Each part must work in harmony with the other (Eph. 4:16).

from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

IV. EXERCISING (OR USING) OUR GIFTS FOR GROWTH.

- A. Scripture text: Romans 12:6-8.

And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- B. We are charismatic people. And this is according to grace (Eph. 4:7, 11).

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. **11** And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

- C. We are to:

1. Preach -- tell others about X.
2. Serve -- give of our talents.
3. Teach -- tell ourselves by way of reminder.
4. Exhort -- encourage in our teachings.
5. Give -- give what we materially have.
6. Lead -- be an example for others to follow.
7. Merciful -- patient, forgiving, w/cheerfulness.

- D. What we do in these areas will make the biggest of differences.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We have looked at this series of verses and seen that:

1. Our daily lives must be a spiritual sacrifice of worship.
2. We must remain humble in our attitude.
3. We must as individuals work together and 'pool' our talents.
4. While we utilize our gifts.

- B. Church growth does not come by a fancy method, force, or luck. It comes with each member doing their part to build up, encourage, and preach.

- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.