

BE ALL YOU CAN BE
ROMANS Part 25
Romans 12:1-8

Paul begins teaching the practical aspects of the Christian life and he starts with our personal commitment to Christ (verse 1). Then Paul immediately moves to the second most important issue for every Christian to settle: **my commitment to the body of Christ - the Church.**

HOW TO BECOME ALL THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE

(What it means to be a part of the Body of Christ)

STEP 1: DEDICATE MY BODY (vs. 1)

STEP 2: ELIMINATE COMPETING DISTRACTIONS (vs. 2)

STEP 3: EVALUATE YOUR STRENGTHS. (vs. 3)

STEP 4: COOPERATE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS. (vs. 4-5)

Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:

(See also 1 Cor. 12:1-31, Eph., 4:11-15)

1. Every believer is a minister. We are all different parts of the body and we all form the body together. The question is "Who are the ministers at Friends ?" Those who are on staff are not the ministers.

2. Every believer has a different function. Not all of us do the same thing. 1 Cor. 12 says the hand doesn't do what the foot does and the foot doesn't do what the head does...

3. Every ministry is important. Corinthians 12 says the hand can't say to the foot, "I don't need you." The foot can't say to the eye, "I don't need you." We're interdependent.

4. Every believer must cooperate. We are dependent on each other to get the job done and we all form one body in the body of Christ. If one part of the body malfunctions then the rest of the body is hurt.

STEP 5: ACTIVATE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT. (vs. 6-8)

(7 examples listed)

The basis for spiritual gifts:

1 Peter 4:10, 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 11

The purposes of spiritual gifts: Eph. 4:11-13, 1 Cor. 12

The responsibility of spiritual gifts:

1. Examine. 2. Experiment. 3. Exercise.

APPLICATION: WHAT ALL THIS MEANS FOR OUR CHURCH

If we are to be a New Testament Church, we must take seriously these concepts. Unbiblical church structure tends to create conflict and disharmony, and restricts the naturally intended ministry of every believer. Talent is wasted and growth is limited.

Statements of Structure

1. We believe that the church is a organism, not an organization. Therefore, it is to function like a body, rather than a business. 1 Cor. 12:12-31, Rom. 12:4-8.
2. We believe the church is to operate on the basis of spiritual gifts rather than around offices or elected positions. 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 1 Peter 4:10, Luke 22:24-27
3. When organizations become central, maintenance becomes the focus, but when spiritual gifts are recognized, ministry becomes the focus. Therefore, at F.C.C. it is our desire to streamline structure in order to maximize ministry and minimize maintenance. Acts 6:1-7, 8:4.
4. We believe that the church the people are the ministers, and the pastors are the administrators. Eph. 4:11-12, Rom. 12:4-8, Gal. 5:13, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Tim. 5:17, Heb. 13:17
5. We believe that there are 3 practical advantages of structuring around an ever-expanding network of Ministries rather than around a single board or bureaucracy of committees:
 1. The implementers are the decision-makers.
 2. The involvement level is increased.
 3. We can respond more rapidly to the Holy Spirit's leading to meet a specific need.

