**Gifted**

Romans 12:4-8

**Sermon Outline**

**A. Unfold (vs 4-5):**

1. **Many members** – Paul makes an analogy between the human body and the Church.

2. **Many members** – There are many parts that are all very different.

3. **One body** - Even though the human body had many parts it is cohesively one body.
   a) The symbol of the body describes the Church as an organism, with every member drawing life from Christ (see Col 3:3). Since all the members draw their life from Christ, they all belong to each other. Local groups of believers are the local manifestation of Christ’s body, the Church.

4. **One body** – The diversity of the human body is purposeful.

5. **One body** – The purpose of the diverse nature of the body is to make it extremely productive.

6. **All the members do not have** – On a continual bases the many parts of the body do not do the same thing.

7. **All the members do not have** – Just like the body everyone has a spiritual gift (1 Peter 4:10).

8. **Function; Deeds** – Anytime the body does completes an action it is as a result of each part having a different task that is determined by its purpose or design.

9. **Who are** - Who we are is always is continuous.

10. **Who are** - Whatever spiritual gifts God provides to us is going to be the same until we arrive in heaven.

11. **So we who are many** – The church are continuously just as comprehensive as the body.

12. **We who are many** – Just like the body has a lot of parts so the church has many members.

13. **So we who are many** – Our purpose is predesigned and will never change.

14. **One body** – The church is the body of Christ so it is cohesively one even though it has many separate parts.
15. **One body** – No matter how diverse the spiritual gifts they ‘fit together fitly’ (Ephesians 4:16).

16. **In Christ** – Unity is achieved when we operate based on God’s Word under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

17. **In Christ** – Christ determines the function by His Word and through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:7).

18. **Individually members** – Oneness does not remove diverse function of each part.

   a) Humility is the key to remaining in the root of Abraham (cf. 11:17–24). This call to humility links back to Jewish (Rom. 2–3) and Gentile (11:18, 25) tendencies toward arrogance. Paul desired that believers find their proper place in the body of Christ, using the gifts of God’s salvation (cf. 1 Cor. 12–13). ¹¹

19. **Individually members** – Each person has a spiritual gift that is uniquely theirs even though the gift is a part of one body.

**B. Called to Serve (vs. 6-8):**

1. **We have gifts** – The gifts we have are always going be with us. We can use them or bury them; meaning not use them (Matthew 25:24-28). There is a day of accountability (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 4:1-2).

2. **Differ** – Gifts differ for the strength and health of the church.

3. **Accordance to grace** - The gifts are provided based on unmerited, generous, spontaneous, and free-hearted blessing from God (Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10).

4. **Given to us** – The spiritual gift that was generously provided is permanent placed into the life of each believer.

5. **Given to us** – The provision of the gift is an independent decision that is made by God.

6. **Accordance to grace given to us** – Spiritual gifts is permanent. We will be held accountable (Matthew 25:24-28).

7. **If prophecy** - Notice ‘if’ because not everyone has each gift.

8. **If prophecy** - If a person demonstrates supernatural ability to explain God’s Word as it relates to the best, present or future (2 Peter 1:19-21), they may have the gift of prophecy.

a) That is, prophesying—communicating God’s message, to strengthen, encourage, and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3)—is to be in right relationship to the body of truth already revealed (cf. “faith” as doctrine in Gal. 1:23; Jude 3, 20).\(^{2[2]}\)

b) Paul tells us that two or three would prophesy and “the others should weigh carefully what is said” (1 Cor. 14:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20; 1 John 4:1-2). It is clear that the early church was well aware of the danger of false prophets (Matt. 24:11, 24); there must be a testing of the spirits (1 John 4:1-6). It is some such process of which Paul appears to be speaking here.\(^{3[3]}\)

9. If prophecy – This gift is mentioned first because all of scripture had not yet been written.

10. If prophecy – Now that scripture is written we must make sure what is said is true (2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20).

11. If prophecy - This is if a believer demonstrates a supernatural ability to foretell the future.

12. Accordance in proportion – The gift of prophecy is directly corresponds to the level of faith a believer has.

13. Faith – Faith is a full surrender because a believer has complete confidence that the Word of God is true. As a result, their lives are fully surrendered so that no matter the circumstances they remain steadfast in their trust in God fully believing God to what He said He will do.

14. Faith – Prophecy is provided for a church body based on the deep conviction a believer has in the divine will of God.

15. Service – The gift of service ‘involves having a passionate love’ for the those who are poor or hurting.

16. Service – The gift of service also relates to those who preach the Gospel ministry to the diverse needs of the church.

17. He who teaches – Those who have the gift of teaching seek to shape the understanding of those who listen focus on achieving the highest theoretical and practical knowledge they can experience.


18. He who teaches – Those who have the gift of teaching seek to shape the will of those who listen to experience their highest level of spiritual growth.

19. In his teaching; Doctrine – Those who have the gift of teaching are deeply committed to sound doctrine.

20. He who exhorts – The person who continuously seek to comfort and encourage other believers to obey God’s Word.

21. In his exhortation; Encouragement – The believer who has the gift of exhortation needs to continue to comfort, console and encourage other believers.

22. Give with liberality – Those believers who continuously share what they have with others and consistently does this with an open-hearted generosity not looking for any return have the gift of giving. These believers are single-minded in purpose in sharing with others.

23. He who leads; charge – These are those who actively and continuously seek to help others so that they do good.

24. Diligence – Those who have the gift of leadership need to try as hard as possible to make every effort to help those in need.

25. He who shows mercy – These are those who continuously demonstrate kindness by helping those who have serious needs.

   a) The general thrust of the participle is clear, but the precise application is not so plain. Since mercy is necessarily shown to those in difficulty of some sort, we may well assume that Paul is referring to the sick, the suffering, the indigent, and the like. And he says that mercy should be shown cheerfully. The word clearly points to something far from a grim determination to get through an unpleasant task. The person who has this gift is to be “radiant with joy” (Lyonnet, quoted in Leenhardt). Mercy is not a grim duty but a joy and a delight.  

26. With Cheerfulness – When the gift of mercy is being displayed it should be done in a light-hearted manner.

27. Gifts – An evaluation of all these gifts makes the church viable and everyone better.

28. Gifts – We are stronger for eternity in the church not the world.

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