

DOING THE FAMILY CHORES

Romans 12:3-8

My parents gave us family chores: my job: mow lawn.
Helping around house didn't make us part of the family!

That came by birth—I was born into the family
—But we all had to do our part.

As **God's family** we pitch in & "help with family chores"

Doing chores doesn't *make us* part of this family either!

We're *born* into God's family, When we trust Christ,

**Because of what Christ did for us—because of God's
mercy, Paul urges: respond appropriately**

How do we express gratitude for God's mercy?

1) Give Him our life 12:1 Initial commitment:

"I want what God wants more than anything else!"

2nd response grows out of 1st: **12:2**

2) Stop living by world's standards

Live daily by God's standards.

God transforms our life. <= **Metamorphosis**

3-8—2 more ways we respond to God's mercy

FIND OUR PLACE in His plan 12:3-5

Finding our place among God's people involves...

Proper attitude=>Right thinking about ourselves **3** "By
*the grace given me I say to every one of you: Don't 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.*"

God works through us to accomplish significant work; it's easy to get *proud*.

But, if we don't see significance of what we're doing from God's perspective, it's easy to get *discouraged*.

We must **see our role from God's perspective!**

We shouldn't have *exaggerated* concept of our importance, but *should* think of ourselves wisely, with sound judgment

Play on words: ***"Don't over-think about yourself!"***

Kent Hughes: "Don't get 'hyper' about yourself!"

Shouldn't have *neg.* concept of our importance either

See our role from God's point of view

Rules posted on **kids' clubhouse** wall:

Nobody act *big* nobody act *small* everybody act *medium*

SEE OURSELVES AS GOD SEES US

NOT TOO HIGH NOT TOO LOW

BUT FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE—as HE sees us!

Proper attitude comes from understanding what God wants to do.

Only understood through eyes of FAITH.

"Think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."

God gives FAITH to believe He can do something through us.

By FAITH we see ourselves from His perspective

Don't aspire to be more than God intends you to be,

Don't settle for being less than He designed you to be!

We need balance between...

Faith, seeing things as they are when God's power's in us,
Realism, not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought!
 Until we discover balance we'll never be all God wants us to.

Requires faith + humility!

– to see selves from God's perspective

Proper Activity 4-5 *“Just as each of us has one body with many members, & these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, & each member belongs to all the others.”*

=> Right thinking about our gifts

God's people like physical body: many parts.

Not all alike; not 1 function—**many different functions**

All parts are necessary for body to function properly.

That's how it is with body of Christ!

Many individuals, but each is different.

All important; all depend on each other.

Body can't function well if members are missing/sick

Each must identify function God assigned *us*

**Only when we're aware of how God designed us
 will we function according to His plan.**

Many ways exist to serve God. 12:6-8 mentions a few!

How could we serve God & His people this week?

After we discover *where* we fit, next response to God's grace:

FULFILL OUR FUNCTION 12:6-8

PROPER BASIS 12:6a

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us”

Key word: GRACE.

Abilities God gives are considered gifts,

God does *not* give them because we deserve them—they're a GIFT!

God gives us gifts because He loves us;

He wants to do something special for us and through us.

Gifts vary but all are given because of God's grace.

Proper use of gifts 6b-8 *"If a man's gift is prophe-sying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it's serving, let him serve; if it's teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it's encouraging, let him encourage; if it's contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it's leadership, let him govern diligently; if it's showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."*

Once we've identified function God gave us, use gifts enthusiastically -for God's glory!

If your gift is prophecy,

proclaim what God says with authority.

Prophets are God's spokespersons.

They proclaim what God says! That *requires FAITH*.

Whatever our gift, use it enthusiastically-by faith-for God's glory

List of **other gifts** follows:

7a If your gift's service, use it to serve!

Some people may *never* have ability to *speak* for Christ; but anyone can show Christ's love by serving others!

7b If your gift is teaching, use it to teach!

8a If its encouragement, use it to encourage!

=> *one called alongside another to help out.*

Find out what people need; come alongside; help them!

8b If your gift is sharing, give generously!

God's people should be GENEROUS—because we serve a *generous* God—“the giving God”

—Who gives us all things richly for our enjoyment!

8c If your gift is leading, lead diligently

8d If gift is showing mercy, do it cheerfully

Passage mentions few of many gifts we can use to serve body.

When we discover ability God's given us, use it *enthusiastically*—so God receives glory.

Marie Curling: “When disappointed with my lot in life, I think of Jamie—trying out for part in school play. Set his heart on being in it; mom feared he wouldn't be chosen. Day parts were assigned, mom picked him up. Jamie rushed to her, eyes bright with excitement. “Guess what, mom, I've been chosen to clap & cheer!”

Maybe God's chosen YOU to clap and cheer!

Be *best* clapper, cheerer, God ever chose to serve Him!

We should use gift we've received faithfully so God is praised—so He receives glory

2 more logical responses to God's mercy:

1. Discover where we fit (in God's plan) 3-5

2. Use ability enthusiastically for God's glory

WHAT ARE OUR CHORES AS PART OF THE FAMILY?

We're to help WITH ENTHUSIASM –HILARIOUSLY!

By the way, we never assign family chores to guests.

If you're not part of family—"just visiting," *enjoy your stay!*
Family chores are for members of the family!

=> *We see people enthusiastically doing their chores!*

... ministering in diverse ministries in our church.

Some minister to our kids, others to our youth or adults.

Some are teachers, others are leaders, or helpers.

Some minister cleaning & fixing things, helping others

All work *enthusiastically*, allow God to work through us

–for HIS GLORY!

We're grateful for people who enthusiastically serve God

Consider where YOU fit to help with family chores!

If you need help figuring out what your chores should be

We'd be glad to help you figure out where YOU fit!