

“One Body in Christ”
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: By grace, God teaches us who we are and how we function as one body in Christ.

In Romans 12:3-8, Paul gives few examples of “grace gifts” that speak of various functions and how they’re manifest within the Body. Similar lists can be found in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-13; and 1 Peter 4:10-11. These functions are not to be divergent, but rather diverse. Just as the Trinity is diverse in his functions as the Godhead, rather than divergent in his thinking and actions, so the Church is diverse in the function of its members, but not divergent in its theology and mission. Although we’re many, we’re one Body in Christ – the governing principle is that we’re “in Christ.” Paul’s talking *to* and *about* the redeemed, those of us “in Christ.” This is the grace of God.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 12:3-8** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**One Body in Christ.**”

DIG IN

1. Grace for the Body: (Romans 12:3)

In what ways is the Body of Christ diverse? In what ways should the Body of Christ *not* be diverse?

In what ways was Paul using his spiritual gifts in his letter to the Romans? In what ways was this a function of God’s grace?

In what ways can thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (v. 3) detrimental to the Body of Christ?

2. Unity in the Body: (Romans 12:4-5)

In what ways can we use our spiritual gifts against one another? In what ways is this contradictory to grace and faith?

In what ways is the Church like a human body? Does unity in the Body cancel our individuality? Why or why not?

3. Gifts of the Body: (Romans 12:6-8)

Read verses 6-8: What gifts does Paul mention here? What are some other spiritual gifts that you know of?

Why does the Church need both “speaking” gifts and “doing” gifts?

What spiritual gift(s) do you believe you possess? Why? In what ways is that gift being used to unify the Body of Christ?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?