

THE TRANSFORMED MIND IS HUMBLE
(Romans 12:3-8)

I. Think properly (vs. 3).

- A. Paul was called to be an apostle by the grace of God.
 - 1. This is not saving grace being mentioned.
 - 2. We are all saved by grace, but, we are not all called to be apostles.
 - 3. The grace mentioned here is also a sign of authority.
 - 4. Since Paul was called to this special office by grace, he wants us to think a certain way and has the authority to want that as an apostle.
- B. When we are transformed we are going to properly value ourselves.
 - 1. I believe there are at least two dangers that are mentioned here.
 - a. The first is that we can think too highly of ourselves.
 - (1) We can get a big head fairly easily.
 - (2) This is a battle that many face.
 - b. The second is that we can think too lowly of ourselves.
 - (1) We are made in the image of God.
 - (2) We are valuable.
 - 2. Another possible danger is that of poor mouthing ourselves in the search for more praise.
 - a. If someone comes up to you and thanks you or praises you for something you did and you say, "Oh, it was really not that good" or whatever, and you know it was, this is a problem.
 - b. What you are really trying to get is more compliments.
- C. When we do something for someone, or do something and get praise for it, we were able to do whatever it was because of God.
 - 1. A person who has dedicated himself or herself realizes this.
 - 2. Instead of fishing for compliments or whatever, we ought to simply say thank you or God blessed me to be able to do that or something along those lines.
- D. When we do this, we are thinking soberly.
 - 1. It is interesting that Paul used the a form of the same verb 4 times in this brief statement.
 - 2. It literally says, "I say through the grace given unto to me to every man that is among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think with sober thinking.
 - 3. We don't over-estimate ourselves or under-estimate ourselves.
 - 4. To do this soberly carries the idea of being in our right minds.
 - 5. If we are conceited, we are not in our right minds.
 - 6. If we view ourselves as dirt and worthless we are not in our right minds.
 - 7. Either extreme does not allow us to do for God that which we could if we thought properly of ourselves.
 - 8. We are not to be boastful or possess a false humility or a terrible view of ourselves.
- E. We are able to do this by the measure of faith given by God.

1. This is a difficult little phrase.
 2. Some commentators didn't even mention it.
 3. One said it had to do with the miraculous gifts given, which it may very well be.
 4. A couple of others said it had to do with the ability given by God to carry out the gifts He has given us today.
 - a. We don't have miraculous gifts today.
 - b. However, God has given us abilities and the ability to reach our full potential, which is what they believe is the measure of faith being mentioned.
- F. When we fail to think properly about ourselves, either too much or not enough, we can't fully use the gifts given us by God.

II. **Think proportionately (vs. 4-5)**

- A. The reason for thinking properly is next discussed.
- B. We can't elevate ourselves above our brethren.
 1. Egotism is a terror to church growth.
 2. It has destroyed more congregations than we will ever know.
 3. It has hindered many more.
- C. Paul is the only New Testament writer who used the comparison of the body to that of the membership of the church.
 1. He did so here, in 1 Corinthians, Ephesians and Colossians.
 2. It is a powerful analogy and is even better explained in 1 Corinthians 12.
- D. Everybody does not do the same thing in the congregation.
 1. We all can't do the same things either by ability or authority.
 2. Some don't have the ability to do certain things and others don't possess the authority to do certain things.
- E. People that hurt themselves have a problem.
 1. We understand that.
 2. We can't imagine how someone could cut themselves or harm their bodies or even take their own lives.
 3. People that do such things are really seeking help or showing they needed help before they ended their lives.
- F. To think improperly about ourselves is a detriment to the body of Christ to which we all belong.
- G. We all don't, and can't do the same things, but we need to realize that we all work together for the good of the body.
- H. We are one as long as we are in Christ and we are all members together in Christ.

III. **Think powerfully (vs. 6-8).**

- A. We don't have miraculous abilities as those brethren in the first century had.
 1. The church was then in her infancy and they were needed to bring the church on into maturity.

2. Now that the church is mature, we don't need those gifts because we have the complete written, inspired word of God to let us know what is needed.
- B. However, the principle here presented is that if we think of ourselves as we ought, don't overlook any member then we can reach our full, powerful potential in the abilities we do have.
- C. There is no prophesying today in the miraculous sense.
1. However, a preacher who preaches something outside of his level of faith is being a hypocrite.
 2. Let those who preach do so with the proper mind set about his abilities and beliefs and he can do powerful things.
- D. Ministry means servitude and carries the idea of being a deacon in the Lord's church.
1. If you have the privilege of being in that position, it is a powerful one in terms of what can be accomplished.
 2. Those men need to give attention to their work, it is not an office to sit in, it is a service to render to others.
- E. Each of us is a teacher in some way.
1. We may not get up and teach a class, but we are to teach others.
 2. When we don't think properly of ourselves, we are poor teachers.
- F. Exhortation is the ability to encourage others.
1. Not everyone is good at that.
 2. Some have a gift for being an encourager.
 3. It is powerful ability when used properly.
- G. The idea of giving is literally that of imparting things.
1. More than likely this was mentioned for the one who was in charge of seeing to the needs of the members of the congregation.
 2. He is to do so with simplicity, or singleness of heart.
 - a. He is not to look to benefit some over others.
 - b. His aim is to give the needed thing to the needed person.
- H. He that rules is a reference to elders.
1. He is to carry that role out diligently, to the best of his ability.
 2. A wrong value placed on oneself will seriously cripple his ability to be diligent and accepted by the flock over which he has been placed by the Holy Spirit.
- I. We are all to be merciful but it seems that this was a class or group of Christians who saw to the physical needs of the ill and diseased.
1. It is a special soul that can wait on the sick and dying.
 2. Not everyone has that ability.
 3. It is to be done with cheerfulness in the face of depressing circumstances.
 4. An out of balance view of oneself will hinder a person's efforts in this regard.