

Romans 12-13 – part one

“Sacrifice & Serve”

7/25/12

Introduction

- The Content of Romans is not hard to understand
 - As long as you remember it is helpful to compare the content of Romans to a great theological city

The Book of Romans – The Great Theological City

#1 – The Courthouse – Romans 1-5

- Paul introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation he spend the first five chapters showing we are all guilty before God

#2 – The Power Plant – Romans 6-8

- Chapters 6-8 help us understand that is power to live out this Christian life God is calling us to – Pastor Rob is doing an in-depth series from these three chapters on our weekend services, but we will cover them as well, just at a much more rapid pace

#3 – The Synagogue – Romans 9-11

- in chapters 9-11 Paul shares with us how Israel fits into God's plan now that there is this new thing called the church and answers the questions, has the church replaced Israel, where do they fit into God's plan and how does God's sovereignty fit with man's free will – great stuff in this section

#4 – The Church – Romans 12-16

- in Paul's final section of this book we will study how the church is practically suppose to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God is this book – Paul ends all of his letters very practically Romans is no exception

Now tonight we begin the fourth and final section of the book of Romans

- and Paul is going to get real practical in light of everything we learned
 - you see something that is so important to understand in Christianity is duty follows doctrine or living follows learning

So often I hear from younger guys in the church, why Bible study, that is so not what the church is doing today - why not just turn Wednesday Night into a prayer meeting

- Listen – I believe in the importance of prayer as much as anyone
 - But no – we are not going to turn Wednesday Night into a prayer meeting, we might pray on Wednesday Nights after or before the study, but we are not going to stop studying the Bible
 - And to the question of why? – What we believe will effect how we live
- The church today is so weak today in general, I'm not really in a hurry to copy their new model of what church is suppose to be
 - We are going to continue to give Bible study the foremost attention in our weekly schedule
 - Why – because right living follows right learning

And for 11 chapters now, we have been learning from the apostle Paul

- the we are guilty
 - God has given us righteousness from Him
- And our response should not be to sin all we want or try and perfect ourselves in the flesh
 - But live a new life in the Spirit

- Remember that even though God has formed this group, the church, He is not done with Israel

Who was freely chosen by God, then freely rejected God and that is why there is a church

- and although God is not done with them, we better learn the lessons and follow the Lord with all our hearts
 - We need to practically follow the Lord
- And tonight and next week we are going to see that right living that follows right learning should result in proper relationship in the church
 - A proper relationship to God, to the body of Christ, to our enemies and even the state
 - Another way to put that for those of you who like outlines

Romans 12-13 – How do we then live?

#1 – Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

#2 – Serve – Romans 12:3-8

#3 – Surrender – Romans 12:9-21

#4 – Submit – Romans 13:1-14

- Don't worry ladies, not that kind, don't walk out
 - We are going to look at these one at a time this week and next

Romans 12-13 – How do we then live?

#1 – Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

- we looked at this study Sunday Morning, so we will not go into great detail tonight
 - but basically what we see here is Paul is calling the church in light of all God has done for them to a commitment to Him
- The basis of that commitment is all God has done for you - As it says in the New Living Translation...

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you.” – Romans 12:1 – New Living Translation

- The one you are committing to loves you enough to create you, bless you & go to the cross for your sins

The one you are committing to bases His relationship with you, not on what you have done, but what He did – It is His mercy

- The commitment He is calling us to is to sacrifice – to sacrifice our lives
 - Not to die physically – but to be a living sacrifice
 - A living sacrifice – how does that work out practically
- Paul says two ways – Do not conform to the world, and the things in the world
 - But instead be transformed into the image of Christ

How does that happen???

- By the renewing of our mind – as we get into His word, and spend time with Him
 - As you do, you will find that the results of being a sacrifice to God is not that you will walk in one of His three wills for your life (good, perfect or acceptable), but that you will find that is exactly what His will is for you – good, perfect, absolutely acceptable

Romans 12-13 – How do we then live?

#1 – Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

#2 – Serve – Romans 12:3-8

- As we are a sacrifice – next we are to serve

Paul says goes - Verse 3

- Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought
 - We need to realize it is all of the Lord

I remember being asked to speak at a winter camp while I was in Bible College. And I was excited. I was delusional at the point in my life, where I thought I was God's gift to the church for teaching and exhortation. So I prepared hard, I was going to wow them. Well on the way up, I began to lose my voice. It happened faster than ever, and by the time I got to the camp it was gone. I told the guy to let me go the next day, but he said no, this is your time. So during worship I begged God to give me my voice back because I needed it. Well when it was time to share I swagged and hollered while I watched kids look at me with disbelief and asleep. I was so bummed, I sat down and thought about what a waste of time that was. **The director of the camp got up, and said, "I know your hearts were stirred tonight. I thought it was heart burn for that guy.** But he gave an altar call and groves of kids committed their heart to God

- and from that night forward I have realized that anything I do is all the Lord
 - I am just a vessel that God can fill
 - I feel like I am the extended version of Number 22-24 – Balaam's taking donkey – he just got one line, I have got a career
 - That is true of all of us

We need to remember that

- our lives are about the Lord
 - and whatever He does is up to Him and He will get the glory

Spiritual pride has no place in the body of Christ

- now listen - that goes for both directions
 - Some people know they are gifted and act like it.
 - Those people need a night like I had years ago and realize, its just the Lord
- But some people show spiritual pride by acting like they are not gifted by the Lord. So that people will tell them they are
 - "I have no gifts, I'm not valuable to the Lord" – oh yes you are, really??? – stop it
- Listen it is not pride to realize God has called you and gifted you to do something, it is pride to pretend like He has so others will affirm you
 - Listen I know what God has gifted me to do – I haven't earned it in any way, but I have been put on earth to teach the Bible

And it is important to know what God has called you do because of what Paul says in verses 4-5

Read Romans 12:3-6a

- Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought
 - But remember we are a body, this Christian church thing is illustrated as a body

Our body is made up of many parts, but each is dependant on each other

- Sure certain parts seem greater than others – our eyes – they get to see, our mouths – get to talk
 - But we have parts, and its important to have the whole
- Our body would be grotesque if it was one big eye ball – ah – the thing is coming
 - Or it would smell if it was one big mouth, of course you couldn't smell it, because you are big mouth, but anyway...

No – our body functions wonderfully as it was designed to do, and it happens as each part performs its function

- And again we think, oh the eyes are important, the fingers, the toes
 - That is true – its all important
 - But you can live without an arm
 - You can live without eyes
- it is actually the hidden parts, the heart, the lungs, - it is those which never get applauded – "oh I love your lungs, they are nice shade of green.."

- but you can't live without them

And friends it is the same way in the church

- everyone of us has a function
 - it is function we have been gifted by God to do, as we will see in just a moment
- but just as the body operates best as each part does its part
 - so the body of Christ functions as each member does its part

And some of us get to be an outward part – I get to teach

- but just as with the body – I believe the most critical parts of the body are those who function behind the scenes - those that faithfully pray, those that faithfully give, those that faithfully set up chairs, and teach kids – its huge

So what part I'm I to play? – Verse 6-8

- Paul mentions seven spiritual gifts, and I personally believe these are something I call Primary Gifts

To better explain there are three basic places in the scriptures that talk about spiritual gifts

- The first is here in Romans 12:6-8
 - As I just said – I believe these are primary gifts, meaning, I believe every person in the body of Christ has at least one of these gifts, and by it a role to play in the body of Christ

Now the second place we see gifts mentioned in the scripture is I Corinthians chapter 12

- Now Paul calls them something slightly different in I Corinthians 12, he calls them spirituals, if you turn there the word gifts is in italics, meaning Bible students? – the word was not there originally, it has been added by the translators to help you understand but it rarely does
 - This list is something slightly different
 - Whereas I believe with the list in Romans 12 that everyone of you who are part of the body of Christ, has a gift, and therefore a role in the body
 - I believe the list in I Corinthians 12 is something that God gives to anyone in the church at certain times for ministry he wants to do, but you do not necessarily possess that gift

In other words, word of wisdom is in this list – God may give you a Word of Wisdom to speak into a situation, but that doesn't mean from now on you are the voice of wisdom of the church

- We don't know what to do, call in Kevin, He is the Word of Wisdom
 - God and His word is the source of wisdom, but God at times may give certain individuals a word of wisdom as He wills for a particular situation

Same thing with the gift of healing mentioned in I Corinthians chapter 12

- I believe the gift of healing is still for today, God heals people, and He may use you, as you pray, He gives you a gift of healing and the person you are praying for or you are healed
 - But that doesn't mean you are now the healer of the body of Christ
 - Jesus is the source of healing
- I have prayed for people, God choose to give the gift and I have prayed for people with terminal cancer and they have been radically healed
 - And I have prayed for others and they have some after died
 - So lesson of the story, you are really taking a chance by having me pray for you – no
- God is the source of healing, He chooses to give certain individuals at certain times gifts of healing, but they are not now the healer of the body

Now the final section in the Word on Spiritual gifts in Ephesians 4

- now these are ministry roles that God may call you to, which are gifts to the church, where in you can use the primary gifts God has give you for a church body
 - so for review...

Romans 12 – Primary Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 12 – Additional Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4 – Ministry Roles in a body of believers

- Primary gifts – everyone has at least one
- Additional gifts – God may give at certain times to do ministry, but you do not forever posses the gift
- Ministry roles – gifts to the church, where you can use your gifts

But with that understanding that means here in Romans 12 we have a list where you for sure have something God has called and gifted you to do, so it is worthy of our attention and study

- Because I believe the bible teaches that each of you have at least one of the gifts mentioned in these verses – and it ties in with the part you have to play in this fellowship

These gifts are divided into two sections – Expounding the Word and Expanding the Work

Expounding the Word - verse 6-8a

#1 - Prophecy – “declaring truth”

- prophecy in the Old testament had 2 forms
 - **Foretelling** – a prophet would predict the future, this is the kind of prophecy will like and get excited about study – the book of Revelation and Daniel is God foretelling the future through a prophet

But the vast majority of prophecy in the scripture is not foretelling the future, but forth telling of God’s Word

- **Forth telling** – proclaiming God’s view on a subject or situation
- It is more than just teaching
 - It’s declaration of God’s heart toward His people

Billy Graham in many ways has this gift. He has the ministry of an evangelist (Eph 4) but as part of his primary gifting is prophecy. We saw it as the tragedy unfolded, Graham was bold to declare God’s heart toward the United States

God has given him a voice to this generation

- some of suggested that myself, in stead of just the gifts of teaching, explaining the Word of God, I hope I have that
 - but more than that, I speak at 15 to 20 camps a year, not so much that I am going back and forth, I actually now turn down more than I agree to, but in 2009 I was invited to share at 25 different youth retreats, men’s retreats and conferences of various sorts
 - God has kind of given me a platform to share His heart with people beyond the church I am a teacher at
- And its not because I have some radical testimony, its really I think because of the gift to forth tell the Lord’s heart

How does this apply to what I can do???

- the basic definition of the word prophecy – is to share God’s counsel
 - every few weeks my calendar gets filled with counseling appointments
 - and I share with them about what the word of God has to say

But I would love to plug a couple in with an older married couple, who could meet with them for a few weeks and share God’s counsel

- This frees me up to do other things

- Like the Apostles who were given to the Word and prayer – this fellowship would only benefit, if that was Pastor Rob and I primary role – to be given the Word and prayer

This was the dynamic of the church I pastored in Texas

- **like I said, I know I have been put on earth to teach God's word**
 - but that is not all a church does during a week – and a worry was, well this guy when I first showed up was 24, had been married for a whole 3
 - and I had no problem sharing what God's word says about issues – but from time to time people have said to me, I can't come out to that fellowship – because if something goes wrong in my marriage, I'm sorry Jason, you are good Bible teacher, but you're really young
- Right – and that would be a problem if was responsible for the entirety of body ministry
 - But if those who feel God's call and gifting to prophesy, to share God's counsel
 - Then the church was able reach the entire community
 - Because everyone was doing their part, their role
- First Paul mentions prophecy –Next we have...

Expounding the Word - verse 6-8a

#1 - Prophecy – “declaring truth”

#2 - Ministering – demonstration truth.

- Speaking is the only way to teach. In fact it isn't even the best
 - We can learn so much from demonstration

When we started football practice, Phil would explain to the guys how to hit, and tackle. He would talk about “punching the sky, body across the chest, and wrapping up.” But many were getting it. So Phil told poor Alex Boshaw to put on a helmet and some pads. Then Phil proceeded to destroy Alex, knocking him a good distance away.

- When that happened the guys learned how to hit
 - Not from words but from deeds.

And spiritually in our walks with the Lord

- all of us are called to it, but there are some that are especially gifted to live out the truth they know
 - and it makes the rest of the body want to know Jesus more
 - you may not be able to breakdown a passage, but you can live it out

How does this apply to what I can do?

- the basic definition is the serving of one another
 - you see you practically live out what it means to be a believer by practically serving one another
- Again every few weeks there comes a request, an older lady needs her lawn mowed, some furniture moved – some family in the church has car problems
 - And the call comes in – and we have limited amount of guys who are here working – and they have role, to minister to kids and to do counseling
 - Again back to the church in Paris how it worked out, they would say, can you help me

Now those of you who know me – somewhat embarrassed to say this – but I am not what you call a handy man – growing up without a Dad around – I learned to do wash, and clean house, but fix the toilet???

- how sad was it when the toilet was running here, and so I was smart enough to deal with it by turning off the water, turning it back on when we were in service and then off and Anciea – is something wrong with that toilet – she grabs tools and in there five minutes and its fixed – awesome!!!

Jason – and some said - don't be a wimp – you can learn those things – go to Home depot get a book and learn boy

- you are right, I scored fairly high on my SAT, was accepted to major universities – I probably could learn about become the church handy man
 - or the church can realize – we are a body, not one person or a small group of people doing everything, but each part doing its share
 - you have the gifts of practical ministry – let Steve know – he will find way for you to serve

Expounding the Word - verse 6-8a

#1 - Prophecy – “declaring truth”

#2 - Ministering – “demonstration truth”

#3 - Teaching – “defining truth”

➤ these with this gift can explain the scripture and present it in a way people can learn
People have commented now that we have done Revelation – Not a hard book to understand, Write the things you see, chapter one, the things which are, chapters 2-3, the church and the things that shall take place after this chapter 4-22, after what – after the church and now Romans– A Great theological city – 4 buildings - The Courthouse, The Power plant, The Synagogue, The Church – and some have asked - do you have that for every book of the Bible – yes, in Bible college some people would nit to pass the time, I divided the entire Word of God into easy to understand chunks – reading others to do it – I didn't come up with most of this on my own – but I love to break it town – because I am a teacher

- And this is what the gift of teaching entails – that is why I shared on Wednesday Night that when someone comes to me and says they feel they have the call to teach – I send them to the kids – no – I mean if you are ever gone on a Wednesday or Sunday – I can teach – that's great – but I know if you can break down the Word of God so 2nd graders can understand it – you will have no problem with adults – are you calling us 2nd graders – no – I'm saying teaching is making it easy to understand – no one wants a teacher who makes it more difficult

How does this apply to what I can do???

- the reality is this church has two teaching pastors to teach the people, but that does not mean there is not a place for you -
 - but there are kids on the other side of that wall that need servants

Expounding the Word - verse 6-8a

#1 - Prophecy – “declaring truth”

#2 - Ministering – “demonstration truth”

#3 - Teaching – “defining truth”

#4 - Exhortation – “demanding truth”

- the word means to come along side and push along
 - oh yeah – this must be my gift - I love to yell and harp on people – no this is not for you

The basic definition means to “come along side”

- it is to come along side someone and walk them through a time or a situation in their life
 - we call it in our day and age - discipleship

How does this apply to what I can do?

- again there are counseling sessions
 - I think it would be great for myself or Pastor to meet with an individual or a couple and see what they need and then hand them off to mature couple or a man or a women to meet with them regularly for a few months and really exhort them

- The same thing is true in youth ministry
 - I am where I am with the Lord, because a youth leader poured into me – I loved the youth pastor, good guy, but he was busy, a leader took interest in me, and I was never the same
 - Jamie and Aaron, can not have enough of those guys and gals

These gifts are divided into two sections – Expounding the Word and Expanding the Work

Expanding the work – Verse 8

#5 - Giving

- Has the idea of sharing, of taking a portion of what God has given us and giving it back to the Lord
 - And friends you know this is always a difficult subject to talk on, but I think it is necessary – because giving is not God’s way of raising money, but rising kids – a little bit of our selfishness is taken away

The first thing I did here upon my return to Calvary Chapel Vista was a series called 20 Questions

- and the last one was on tithing
 - and you can listen to that online, if you are interesting in knowing what I believe the Bible has to say on the subject
- We are not going to get into it tonight, because honestly I spent last week in controversy over God’s sovereignty and man’s free will and my in box is full thank you
 - But I guess because I am a glutton for punishment or in reality because I really care more that God’s pleased with me telling you what I believe God told me to tell you, more than I care that you are pleased with me

Everyone is suppose to give

- tithing existed before the law with Abraham and Melchizedek
 - it has obvious in the law – God told the nation of Israel through the prophet Malachi, it was actually stealing to not give to God – because the tithe isn’t yours to give, its yours to steal – I know I’ll get emails on that one

And even in the New Testament, I’m anticipating your concerns; Jesus commended the Pharisees for tithing in Matthew 23:23

- and Paul these apostle talked about the importance of giving in I Corinthians 16, and II Corinthians 9
 - Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 6 – disciples it’s not if you give, but when you do, here is how you do it
- So please direct the emails to Abraham, Malachi, Paul and Jesus
 - But it is important for all of us!

Now Romans 12 is taking about the gift of giving

- all of us are suppose to give, but some people just have the gift
 - I know people in this room that are some of the most giving people I have ever me
 - What the Bible is saying, is go for it!
 - The church needs that as much as teaching and ministering – why because it pays for it – almost every good we do requires money to do it

And I love the young college crowd, they have all the energy in the world – but they have no cash, they are college students and so again – we are body

- each part of the body has a role
 - what is yours???

Expanding the work – Verse 8

#5 - Giving

#6 - Leading

- this has the idea of oversight – taking a ministry and seeing it through, organizing it, praying for it
 - how does this apply to me – there are things that need overseeing, and if that is your gift
- The Bible says if you have this gift – do it with diligence – if you have the gift of leadership- you are leading them somewhere – be careful where

Expanding the work – Verse 8

#5 - Giving

#6 - Leading

#7 – Mercy

- This has the idea of taking on the burdens of others
 - though we are all called to do it, some people just have a heart to take on one another burdens
 - and there are always opportunities – people sick in the hospital – people going through serious trial
 - and a phone call, a card in the mail, a personal visit – means so much

I believe this message is so important – why because you want less work to do, or more money to do it with

- if you believe that – you don't know me or my heart at all
 - I told our church in Paris Texas when it was brand new...

I believe 'we are a little church' is a state of mind – we are a little church and our little pastor (very true in your case) – does it all, we are so proud of him. – What the state of your facility – oh its fine for our little church – how is the men's ministry – oh well – the women's – umm – is there quality stuff for the kids? – well we are small church – the pastor can't oversee all of that

- Right you are

You see I believe a small church can touch the entire community and really the entire world

- but it will never happen when we see church as me the entertainer, facilitator, counselor, disciple, - the end of everything
 - but when we begin to see church as a body of believers – called by God to worship Him, build up the body around us– and each of us having a part to play

I got to see God take that message to a little church and in just few short years turn it into a huge church that impacted that community more than I could have ever imaged

Now we at Calvary Chapel Vista are not a small church at this point

- but each church will function at the level to extent the body understands, and is allowed to fulfill its roles
 - and my prayer is that this body, every single one of you would figure out what your gift is and how you can serve
 - there is a huge community to reach – more than even a church with two teaching pastors
 - What is your role – in light of all we have learned in Romans – sacrifice and serve
 - We will get to the other two "s" next week...