

**Sermon Title: The Transformed Life Is A Model Of Humility**

**Sermon Text: Romans 12:3-5**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to reflect the evidence of transformation with the attitude of humility.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of humility among the body of Christ.**

**I. The principle of humility in the body of Christ. V.3**

**II. The picture of humility in the body of Christ. V.4**

**III. The precept of humility in the body of Christ. V.5**

**Introduction:** God's divine plan for the body of Christ is unity in message, mission, mandate, and maturity, but diversity in service and spiritual gifts. This passage destroys (as well as 1 Corinthians 12:12-31) the idea of the 20/80 rule.

The idea that Christians can be committed to Christ, be having their mind renewed, and transformed, but be inactive in service in the local church body, that a Christian can be loving the Lord Jesus Christ, and not obey Him, that a Christian can be surrendered, and daily surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord, and not be serving His body in/through the local church is a lie.

People today do not suffer from low self-esteem, it's just the opposite, they suffer from too much esteeming of themselves, more than they ought. Pride is at the root of many of our problems in the White House, Church House, and our house. This is the essence of human nature apart from Jesus Christ. Selfish, self-centered pride dominates the non-transformed life and does not lead to renewal but destruction, decay, and death. But the life that is being renewed is to be dominated by a new creation attitude of "humility."

**I. The principle of humility in the body of Christ. V.3**

The main point of this section of Scripture in the comment in v.3 Christians are "to regard themselves with sober judgment." "The primary purpose of these verses is to make clear that, although we must enter the place of usefulness for Christ with the same total self-sacrifice, we are equipped to fulfill that usefulness in uniquely distinct ways." [John MacArthur Commentary New Testament Romans 9-16, p.154.]

A. Notice the authority of the exhortation. V.3a

B. Notice the audience of the exhortation. V.3b

C. Notice the aim of the exhortation. V.3c

The key term Paul uses in addressing his audience is both its simple ("think") and in two compound forms ("think beyond"), the implied ("not think less of"), but to be "sober in thinking."

The emphasize the necessity of humility Paul uses a form of phronio (to think) four times in verse 3. A true Christian is not to overestimate or underestimate themselves, highly (huperphroneo), but he thinks of themselves as they really are.

**1 Timothy 1:12-14** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, **13** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. **14** And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

To think soberly is to think steady, with clearheaded understanding, about themselves and about the truth of the gospel in this age. An honest and balanced spiritually guided view of oneself will be very low, but not lower than God's estimate of you.

**1 Corinthians 4:6-7** Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. **7** For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

**1 Peter 5:5** Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

This type of thinking leads the believer to recognize that in ourselves we are nothing, but in Christ Jesus and by the Holy Spirit's power we can be used for the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**3 John 9** I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## II. The picture of humility in the body of Christ. V.4

There are right attitudes about our place in the body and the spiritual gifts we must adopt. Christians must acknowledge the Lord God Himself, by the working of the Holy Spirit provides the gift, places you in the body for the proper use of your gifts, and empowers you and the gift to fulfill its function in the body of the church.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of *all*: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Therefore four observations must be recognized.

1. Every part of the body must function.
2. Every part of the body has a function.
3. Every part of the body is designed to function.
4. Every part of the body must function, in order for the body to function properly.

**Ephesians 4:16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

## III. The precept of humility in the body of Christ. V.5

While there are many parts of the body, they do not all have the same function. (**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**) Paul's point is that there is unity in diversity, and diversity in unity in the body (the local church). That we are interconnected to one another.

"It seems, as in 1 Corinthians 12, it is this unity and diversity of gifts and the temptation to comparisons and false pride that comes with the diversity, that is the chief concern." [Douglas J. Moo "The New Testament Commentary The Epistles of Romans p. 762-763]

- A. We are many members. V.5a
- B. We are one body. V.5b
- C. We are interconnected to one another. V.5c

"After World War II, a group of German students volunteered to help rebuild an English cathedral that had been severely damaged by German bombs. As work progressed, they became concerned about a large statue of Jesus, whose arms were outstretched and beneath which was the inscription: 'Come unto Me.' They had particular difficulty trying to restore the hands, which had been completely destroyed. After much discussion, they decided to let the hands remain missing and changed the inscription to: 'Christ has not hands but ours.'" [John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Romans 9-16*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1994, p. 153.]