

SMALL GROUP LESSON

JANUARY 21, 20108

REASONABLE THOUGHTS

ROMANS 12:3-8

Imagine for just a moment that you woke up one morning and discovered that every other person on planet earth had disappeared. How would that make you feel? Even if you had an endless supply of food and shelter, would you be a happy person? Now let's take a look at the Christian way of life and tackle these questions.

1. Is it possible to really live the Christian way of life as a solitary individual without any connection to other Christians? What do you think happens to those who attempt to live the Christian way of life in this manner?
2. In Romans 12:4-5, Paul compares the church to the human body? How is the church similar to the human body and what happens if the various parts of that body do not work together?
3. How many distinctive parts of the human body can you name and what is the function of each of those parts? For example, the human body has a heart and its responsibility is to pump blood throughout the body. Now take a look at verses 6-8. Think of each of the gifts that Paul mentions as a part of the body of Christ with a specific function or responsibility. How many of these gifts does Paul mention in these verses and what does each of these gifts enable God's people to accomplish?
4. Now take a look at your life. Which of these gifts do you think God has given to you? "None of the above" is not an answer. Each of us has been gifted by God. As Christians each of us has a responsibility to discover our giftedness and then put that giftedness to work within the life of our church. If we don't, our church becomes like a body without an arm or leg or a vital internal organ and that's not a good thing. Here's a hint as to how to discover your giftedness. First, ask the Lord to show you or reveal to you your giftedness. Second, ask yourself, "What do I really enjoy doing at church? What makes going to church worthwhile each Sunday?" Then see if you can find a match among Paul's listing of gifts and what you enjoy doing. For example, if you enjoy preparing dishes for the monthly fellowship meals at church, you may possess the gift of serving.
5. In Paul's letter he states in verse 5 that "we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." What does that mean and how is that like the Three Musketeers who said, "One for all and all for one"?