



SERVING THE BODY

Romans 12:3-8

Textual Context (Rom 1:1-7)

Paul a servant of Jesus Christ

Who he is

called to be an apostle

Who he is called to be

set apart for the gospel of God

What he is called to do

..... **GOSPEL LINK**

To all God's beloved in Rome

Who they are

who are called to be saints

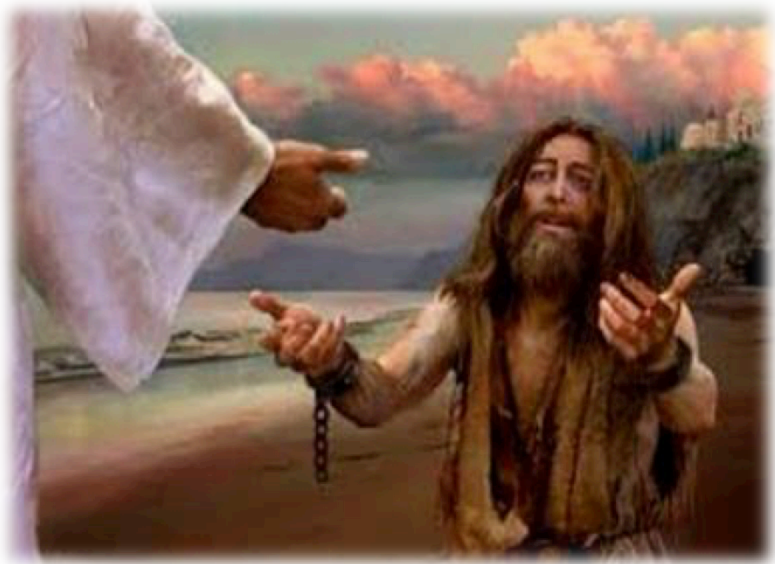
Who they are called to be

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

What is given to them that they may act as Christ

Romans 12:3

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think but to think so as to have **sound judgment** as God has allotted to each a **measure of faith**.



Mark 5:15

Luke 8:35

Deflation of Ego results in Sanity



Can faith be measured out and given like a magic potion?



**Metron – Measure
Pistis – Faith**

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



- External Looks
- Education
- Position
- Wealth
- Worth

The World has a Metron



- How is my relationship with Jesus?
- Am I becoming more like Him?
- Am I acting more like Him?
- Am I thinking more like Him?
- Am I relating more like Him?

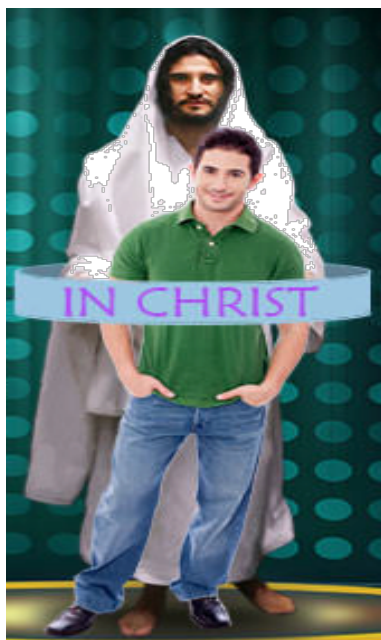
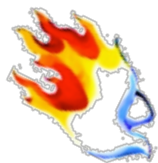
But our mind needs to be transformed and come into alignment with the Metron of our Faith which is relational

Is the Metron of your Faith – the standard you are using for what you think about yourself and others?

Romans 12:4-5

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same **function** so **in Christ**, we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others.

in Christ (the Metron of our Faith)



For: Gar

Paul uses it to summarize his case. So Rom 12:3-15:33 summarizes the reason why Paul said what he said earlier.

Just as: Kathaper

Paul uses it to connect the whole talk on the Metron of Faith to Gifts

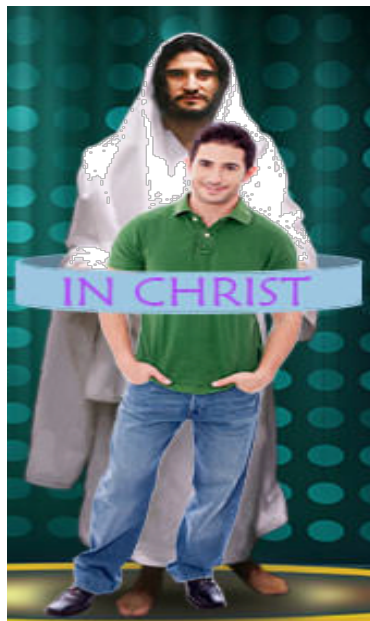
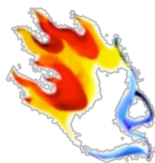
Function: Praxis – Practical Use

None of the body parts / gifts are for self-glory or beautification – they have a practical function. None can be passive or asleep – each contributes to keep the rest alive at its own cost.

Romans 12:4-5

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in Christ (the Metron of our Faith)

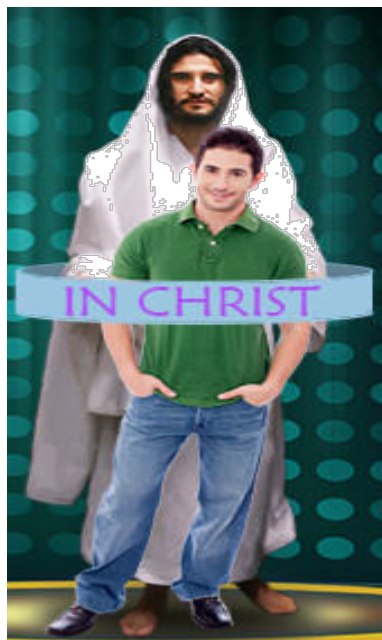
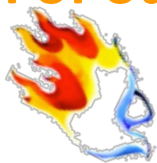


- Am I alive with my gift or is my gift sleeping in the pew? Do I ignore, abuse, misuse, neglect the gifts?
- Do I come to get or to give?
- Am I using the gift given to me in the practical manner that God intended for it to be used?

Romans 12:4-5

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in Christ (the Metron of our Faith)



- Not that we take advantage of others.
- We are not members of a denomination but more than that we are grafted into a living, breathing, gift-operating, mutually interdependent assembly of followers – Dr Skip Moen
- None of us are empty vessels.

Romans 12:6

Since we have **gifts** that differ according to the **grace** given to us each of us is to exercise them accordingly; if prophecy according to the proportion of his faith...

Gifts: Charisma

Grace: Charis

The Gifts of God's Grace

God's unmerited favour towards man – we being endowed by Him with specific attributes that make us unique. It has to do with a covenant relationship and the joy that comes in the full expression of who we are born to be.

Given: Didomi – Entrusting, granting permission, stewardship

The gifts are given – not acquired

They are given to all – not just believers

They are given in variety

We are granted permission to steward them



Romans 12:6

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Where grace is – joy is. Joy is in community and it propels further action.

Grace is the operating principle behind gifts.

When there is true joy in what you do – work becomes an act of worship to the Creator.

Jesus pressed on in His journey to the Cross for the joy set before Him. Grace empowered Him and Joy was His one incentive.



Rom 12:1

If we are to be living sacrifices, we must use the gift God has given us. Giving the gift with joy for God's glory and the blessing of others in community is sacrifice pleasing to Him.

And there is no better sacrifice than our simple obedience.

Is Joy your incentive? Or are other incentives robbing you of joy?

Romans 12:7-8

If service, in his serving or he who teaches in his teaching or he who exhorts in his exhortation, he who gives in liberality, he who leads with diligence, he who shows mercy with cheerfulness.

Gifts of Grace such as:

- Prophecy
- Service
- Teaching
- Exhorting
- Giving
- Leading
- Showing mercy

Attitude:

- In proportion to our Faith
- Our serving
- In teaching
- In exhortation
- With liberality
- With diligence
- With cheerfulness



Does your attitude measure up to Christ's attitude?

Summary

So in exercising Romans 12:1-2 and transform

5 Charisma-Charis – Gifts of Grace

Empowered uniquely to serve with the attitude of joy as God rejoices over us

4 Connect to Community

We are inter-dependent and each has someone to bring to serve the other

3 Consider Praxis

Practically use the gift entrusted by God the way He intended – don't misuse, abuse, ignore, neglect what's given

2 Compare With Christ

The Metron – Standard of Measurement of our Faith

1 Conquer Conformity

Deflate Pride and Return to Sanity of Mind



