

Comments About Romans 12:4-5

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul's writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

This article will discuss Romans 12:4-5.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:4-5.

Romans 12:4-5—"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

One body in Christ

Notice some verses in the Bible that discuss the concept of being one body in Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:17—"For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread."

1 Corinthians 12:12—"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:25-27—"That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."

Ephesians 4:4—"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling."

Various functions

Notice some verses in the Bible that discuss the concept of having various functions.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6—"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all."

1 Corinthians 12:11—"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."

1 Corinthians 12:14-19—"For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?"

1 Corinthians 12:20-22—"But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary."

Ephesians 4:15-16—"But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—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."

Next week, we will discuss the gifts of Romans 12:6-8.

Romans 12:6-8—"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."