

Sermon 
SNAPSHOTS



NE→**XT**
STEPS

LEARNING HOW TO MOVE FORWARD

IN THE CHURCH

Romans 12 reminds us that we are members of Christ's body, which comes with responsibilities to the Lord, and toward one another (v.5). Let's consider a few thoughts on what it means to take the next steps in the church and to find our place in God's place

Be Thankful For Various Talents(v.4)

We're different! We look different, talk different, dress differently. We have different styles, likes, tastes, opinions. The way we drive may be different than others.

Paul uses the analogy of a body (v. 5)

A body is made up of all sorts of different parts with different functions. Aren't you thankful that the whole body wasn't made up of one part? (1 Corinthians 12:17)

This is true in the church

- ✓ We are different, and we have different talents, abilities, strengths that we use in His service. Some of us may be 5 talent people – can do all sorts of things very well. Some of us may be 1 talent people – can do few things very well. The point is that we don't need to be upset or frustrated when people don't serve God in the same way we do. Someone may teach a Bible class differently than how I would. Someone may lead singing differently than how I would lead singing – and that's ok! Be thankful that we are diverse. Be thankful people are using their God given abilities for the Kingdom. Be thankful that the work can get done.
- ✓ The point that Paul makes here is that we don't need to be so caught up on our self, and what I can do, and my way of doing things, my preferences and my opinions, that I become a hindrance or discouragement to the work of the church. Be thankful God purposed this body to be made up of many different people doing many different works, and encourage your brethren to get to the work

Be Yourself (v.6-8)

You have something to offer this church. Every single one of us, from the young to the old, has a role to fill, a service to render. Not everyone can do the same things: Not everyone can preach. Not everyone can lead singing. Not everyone can work with their hands repairing a building. Not everyone can cook meals and share them for others. Just because you cannot do what others can doesn't make you any less important or valuable to the work of this church.

What keeps us from getting active and finding a place to serve is:

Self-consciousness – I’m not needed. Things will be just fine without me. I can’t teach like sister so and so, I can lead like brother so and so. There are so many talented members doing so many excellent things – I’d just get in the way. “The church will be just fine without me.” That may be true. But I’m willing to bet that this church doesn’t want to settle for “Just fine.” They want to excel and reach excellence – and you are needed

Don’t worry about the fact you can’t do what others can do. Be yourself and do what you can do! Maybe you’re good at encouraging – shake everyone’s hand and let them know how glad you are they are here – write cards to the members each week. Maybe you’re good with computers – share the congregation online – post about it, share sermons, tweet Bible verses. The proper working of each part causes the growth of the body (**Ephesians 4:15-16**). The church needs you!

Be a Blessing to Others (v. 10-13)

As members of this church we have responsibilities towards one another.

We are to be devoted to one another in brotherly love

- ✓ To love is to serve, care for and strengthen your brethren (Hebrews 12:12-13)

We are to give preference to one another in honor

- ✓ Preference carries the idea of special treatment/attention. It is putting the needs of the brethren before my own (Philippians 2:3)
- ✓ Honor carries the idea of expressing worth/value. It is showing respect, esteem, love and appreciation.
- ✓ We show honor through what we say (v. 15) – sharing in the emotions our brethren are experiencing
 - Our words can build and encourage our brethren (Proverbs 12:25, 16:24; Hebrews 3:13)
- ✓ We also show honor through our actions (v.13)
 - Carrying for their spiritual needs, physical needs, providing gifts of kindness, hospitality.

The purpose of all we do is to glorify God so that those who come and see our worship and fellowship will leave saying, “God is certainly among you” (1 Corinthians 14:25).

-Jordan Shouse

Fishers Church of Christ

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Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm
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