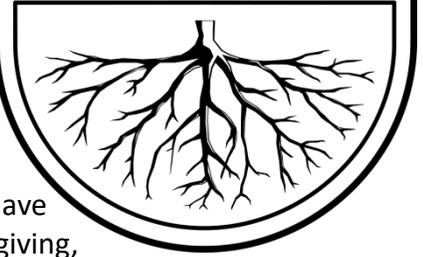




CONTEXT AND CLARIFICATION

ROMANS 12:3-8

LIFE GROUPS



2. We are not meeting together physically as a church family, yet there are ways for us to still function as one body. What a blessing that our church has Life Groups so individual members have a way to connect. We also have our service online for members to tune in every week. In the past few weeks, we have also had numerous people step up to call and pray with other church members who have been advised not to leave their home. Our church family is worshiping, growing, giving, and serving even when it is difficult. Church members are reaching out to neighbors, ensuring they have groceries and toiletries. Wow! We are reminded of the simple truth in this season that the church isn't the building. WE are the church!

3. Maybe you thought that spiritual gifts were just limited to what is listed in Scripture. Maybe you thought that your spiritual gift *wasn't* a good gift. Maybe you used your gift for your own benefit instead of building up the body. Be sure to share with your group how you have matured in your thinking in regards to your spiritual giftedness.

4. In this season of "social distancing," we can easily fall into the trap of feeling disconnected and unneeded. Be sure to encourage the body that we NEED one another.

5. Be sure they give examples of how they are CURRENTLY using their gifts because question 6 addresses the rest of their gift that they are maybe currently not using.

6. How has your gift helped other Christians' gifts be more effective? Maybe it was helping a Sunday school teacher become for organized. Maybe you're the one who greets guests insuring they feel welcome, knowing that job isn't just for the greeters and staff. Maybe you are that Life Group member who brings the best food to be a blessing to your Life Group so people want to come back even more next week.



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER: What verse or truth from Scripture has encouraged you in this time?

1. Read Romans 12:3-8. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's sermon?
2. Although the body cannot be together physically during this season, how can we continue to function *as* the body?
3. How have you previously thought incorrectly about your spiritual gifts? How did God change your heart?
4. What advice could you give a Christian who feels useless?
5. How is the body of Christ *currently* being built up by you and your gifts?
6. What gifts do you have that bring you great joy and bring the body fruitfulness?
7. How has your spiritual giftedness complimented or paired with another Christian's spiritual gift, making it more fruitful?



FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

2 Corinthians 10:7-13 (NIV)

⁷ You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. ⁸ So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. ⁹ I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. ¹⁰ For some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.” ¹¹ Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present. ¹² We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. ¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.

Ephesians 4:1-8 (NIV)

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.