



Romans 12:3-5

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# Connected like family..

- Family are individuals but members of another
  - Eph 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God
  - **Eph 4:25** Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.
  - 1 Cor 12:24-25 But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

## We are not independent...

- We are not meant to function in isolation
  - Acts 2:44-47 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

## We are interdependent..

- We are often told to be together..
  - 1 Cor 1:2 called to be saints together
  - Rom 15:6 live in harmony to glorify God together
  - Eph 2:5 made alive together with Christ
  - Eph 2:21-22 built together into a holy temple
  - Eph 4:16 working together so to build up body
  - Col 2:2,19 knit together in love

# One body/many members...

- Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
  - A disconnected body part is a serious problem
  - God wants us to let go of our fierce independence

# A New Thinking..

- Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
  - A humble, sober view of ourselves

## A New Thinking..

- Phil 2:3-7 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
  - In God's kingdom we do not think only of ourself

#### The bottom line...

- You are not here for you...
- You are here for everybody else..
  - Your encouragement, display of faith
  - Your work of love.. Just your presence
  - We need you
- We cannot be the church God wants us to be unless we use opportunities to be together
- We cannot grow in love just coming once a week
- Who will you turn to if you need help?





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