

G.E.M.S.
L.I.F.E. DISCIPLESHIP STUDY

FIVE PRINCIPLES OF A HEALTHY CHURCH BODY

Overview

Over the next five weeks or more, we will study the **five guiding principles** of a healthy church body: **humility, unity, diversity, purity, and charity**. We want you to **learn** the **five principles** by **meditating** on the teachings you will receive, so you can **conform** your character to these principles (Joshua 1:8). We will know these principles are being applied when members of our church body work **interdependently**, which results in our flourishing, both **relationally** and **numerically**.

Be excited about this study. Through this study you will receive revelation about how you as a Christ follower are an actual *part* of Christ's Body. Most Christ followers know Christ as their Savior and grow into Him being their Lord, but few know Christ as a result of being an interdependent part of His Body.

Our Text: Romans 12:3-10 (ESV)

Romans 12:3. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4.** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5.** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7.** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching, **8.** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity, the who leads, with zeal; the who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **9.** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10.** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Introduction: Book of Romans

- **Writer:** Apostle Paul
- **Who:** The Book of Romans was written to the Christ followers living in Rome, who were both Jewish and non-Jewish
- **Why:** Paul wrote this letter to address the **tension** between the Jewish and non-Jewish followers of Christ. He addressed this tension through his **theology** of salvation. Paul let them know that everyone had sinned, the wages of sin was death, and the free gift of God was eternal life through Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23, 6:23).
- **What:** In our text (Romans 12:3-10) Paul used the **metaphor** of the **Body of Christ**. In our study, we will learn how Christ followers come together **collectively** and work together **interdependently** as Christ's Body, the church, so they can **belong** to one another in **fellowship** and do the works of Christ together.