

Sunday, October 14, 2018—Body Building: Likeminded & Receiving One Another

## Introduction

- I Timothy 4:7-8—this series is going to be about a kind of exercise, spiritual exercise. Spiritual exercise that is designed to build a spiritual body not a physical one. Our goal is to learn how to flex our spiritual muscles with the goal of building up the body of Christ.
- Philippians 2:12—this type of exercise is going to require working out and spiritual discipline. Our goal is to take the life of Christ that is in us and work it out through us or manifest it in our mortal flesh.
- Each week in the introduction, I have tried to focus on a different habit of righteousness that is essential to body building. Thus far we have touched upon the following habits of righteousness:
  - Meditation & mindfulness—the importance of giving constant mental attention unto the word of God. This week I would like to touch upon the principle of moderation.
  - Moderation—the middle ground between extremes
- I Thessalonians 5:18—this morning I would like to remind everyone of the importance of thanksgiving. In 2013, I taught a six-part study titled *A Heart of Thanksgiving* in which we talked about why thanksgiving is so important for believers.
  - Romans 1:21-23—ingratitude is the seedbed for sin. Notice the degenerative spiral in this verse.
    - The Gentiles knew who God was
    - They become unthankful not glorifying God as God **which leads to**
    - Becoming vain in their imaginations **which leads to**
    - Their foolish hearts being darkened **which leads to**
    - Professing themselves to be wise **which leads to**
    - The transferring to the glory due to the uncorruptible God into the worship of images made after corruptible things.
  - Romans 1:24-32—all the evil described in this passage finds its point of origin in verse 21 with a lack of thankfulness and glorifying God as God. Consider all the evil that resulted from a lack of thanksgiving.

- Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:27, Hebrews 12:2—gratitude is the seedbed for joy. Christ could give thanks to God despite paid, anguish, suffering, and separation from the Father because he knew the joy it would produce to have made satisfaction for sin.
- Philippians 4:6, 11—thanksgiving is the key to contentment. It is giving of thanks IN EVERYTHING that teaches us to be content. WE ARE NOT BY NATURE CONTENTED PEOPLE! CONTENTMENT IS A LEARNED PROCESS.

### **Likeminded One to Another**

- Romans 12:5—in our first study in this series, I introduced you to a concept that I am calling the one-anothering principle. The phrase “one of another” is a translation of a plural pronoun which means: “reciprocally” or “mutually.”
  - Reciprocal—"Mutual; done by each to the other" (Webster's 1828)
  - Reciprocally—"Mutually; interchangeably; in such a manner that each affects the other and is equally affected by it." (Webster's 1828)
- Thus far we have observed the following one-anotherings:
  - Kindly affectioned one to another (Rom. 12:10)
  - Preferring one another (Rom. 12:10)
  - Not judge on another (Rom. 14:13)
- Romans 15:5—contains the next one-anothering statement, “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Jesus Christ.”
- Recall from last week that Romans 14 is discussing differences of opinion and conviction that exist among believers. It is important to note that these statements of opinion only apply to those areas for which there is not clear teaching. It was in this context that we observed Paul’s statement that believers should not “judge one another.”
  - Romans 14:13
- Romans 14:19—rather than arguing about meat and what days one ought to esteem or not esteem believers should be endeavoring to follow after the things that make for peace and edify the body of Christ.
- Romans 15:1-3—is an extension of the same context. Rather than pleasing ourselves believers ought to be seeking to please others for their good to edification. Once again, Paul sets Christ forth as the example of what he is talking about.

- Romans 15:5—Paul prays that the Romans would be “likeminded one toward another.” In the context Paul wants them to think and function in a way that places the edification of others above their desire to please themselves.
- Romans 12:2—once again this type of other guy first thinking and behavior steams from a renewed mind. We have already seen this type of attitude and action advocated for by Paul in our current series on Body Building.
  - Romans 12:3—“every man among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think”
  - Romans 12:10—“preferring one another”
- Romans 15:5—Paul is exhorting the stronger and weaker saints to be of the same mind toward each other.
  - Philippians 2:1-4—we already studied this passage when we were talking about “preferring one another.”
  - Philippians 2:5-8—once again, the mind of Christ is an example of this like-mindedness that Paul is exhorting the Romans and Philippians to function with.
  - These are not the only verses in Philippians that stress the importance of being likeminded:
    - Philippians 3:15-16
    - Philippians 4:2
  - Romans 12:16
  - II Corinthians 13:11
- Romans 15:5—this like-mindedness that Paul is exhorting the Romans unto is for a practical purpose in the passage.

### **Receive One Another**

- Romans 15:7—“wherefore” on the basis of being “likeminded one toward another” in verse 5 Paul instructs the Romans to “receive ye one another” in verse 7.
- The word “receive” in both Greek and English carries the following meanings:

- to receive, i.e. grant one access to one's heart; to take into friendship and intercourse
- To admit into membership or fellowship.
- Acts 28:2
- Philemon 1:12, 17
- Romans 15:7—once again, note that Christ's reception of us is set forth as the example for how the Romans are to function.
  - Ephesians 1:6-8
- Romans 14:1—weaker saints are to be received not as second-class citizens but full-fledged members of the body of Christ.