

The Role of God's People (The Church)

Romans 12:4-21

Introduction

The Fruit stand Church Example

The Church is not a building but an organism that functions and moves throughout the world.

Matthew 16 "Upon this Rock I will build my church"

Churches: Jerusalem/ Antioch/ Rome/ Corinth/ Ephesus/Galatia/ Philippi/ Thessalonica/ Crete/Colossae

Revelation Churches: Ephesus/ Smyrna/ Pergamos/ Thyatira/ Sardis/ Philadelphia/ Laodicea

The church is the way Jesus operates and fulfills his great commission.

A church must be:

- Spirit filled
- Christ obsessed
- Gospel driven
- Love saturated
- Unity Anointed Psalm 133/ John 17
- Unity in Diversity = The church is not a white sheet of paper or a black cloth but a flourishing colorful tapestry of glory and creative beauty.

The church has 3 overall functions:

1. Bring glory and pleasure to God
2. Proclaim the message of salvation through Christ
3. To love each other and the world with the love of Christ

The church is not a club

The church is not a fad

The church is not a political think tank

The church is the family of God and the body of Christ

Verses 4-8 Love through Spiritual Gifts

1. Paul lists 7 here
2. 1 Corinthians 12/ Ephesians 4:11/ 1 Peter 4:10
3. 16 Spiritual Gifts listed by Paul
4. Prophecy = divine proclamation/ preaching/ prophecy of faith/ Preach from the prophets
5. Ministry = diakonia/ serve/ wait tables/ give aid or relief to someone in need
6. Teaching = instruction helping people learn information. Prophecy declares God's truth/ Teaching helps people apply God's truth
7. Exhorting = to call near/ to invite/ to encourage/ to comfort
8. Giving = simply to give to others with simplicity=Liberally with no strings attached
9. Mercy = show mercy with cheerfulness
10. Dissimulation = without hypocrisy but sincerely
11. These are tools and not toys
12. These are categories all gifts fall under these categories
13. All of us have these gifts given by the Spirit to us
14. To help each other and love the world

Verses 9-16 Love Within

1. Hate evil
2. Embrace good
3. Be kind
4. Enjoy one another
5. Don't be lazy in God's business
6. Be fervent
7. Rejoice in hope
8. Patient in tribulation
9. Pray all the time
10. Help each other benevolence
11. Be hospitable
12. Celebrate together

13. Weep together
14. Be of the same mind
15. Don't be condescending people that are weird
16. Seek never to do evil to each other
17. Be honest before everyone

Verses 14, 18-21 Love Without

1. Try to be at peace with everyone
2. Don't avenge yourself or others
3. Deuteronomy 32:35 – God brings vengeance
4. Feed your enemies
5. Give water to your enemies
6. You heap coals on his head
7. Don't let evil overcome you
8. Overcome evil with Good

Conclusion:

1. The church is to use their Spiritual gifts to love others and advance the Kingdom
2. The church is to love the people inside the church family
3. The church is to love the sinful and dark world
4. All of this is because of the mercy of God upon us

Challenge:

1. Start a quest to find your spiritual gift (Paul Test/ Bruce Bugby)
2. Seek to love your local church family
3. Seek to love people outside these walls
4. Ask Jesus to help you with these challenges