

**THE CHURCH**  
**Part 3**  
**Serving in Community**  
**Rom 12:3-8, Eph 4:7-16, 1 Pet 4:7-11**

1. **Be sound in your assessment of God's gifting in your life.**
  - a. **Who/what are the gifts about? (1 Cor 12:1-3, 7)**
  - b. **Seek to be you, not someone else and serve as you are led and able. (1 Pet 4:7-11)**
  - c. **Seek the Lord in daily life and look for and seek opportunities to serve. (Rom 12:1)**
  - d. **Always remember Who we serve.** You will never make everyone happy. Focus on God.
  
2. **Understand the necessity of diversity within the church. (1 Cor 12)**
  - a. **"Just as..." Both in Rom 12 and 1 Cor 12 the church is explained using the analogy of the human body.**
    - Our bodies (and the church) are made up of many different, necessary parts.
    - The parts of the church and of our bodies have different and necessary functions.
    - Every part is important and needed.
  - b. **Unity is our calling and should be our goal. (Eph 4:1-6)**
  - c. **Christ, the "Cornerstone" is our priority - we are to seek Him and keep Him as the the focus of our faith, actions, ministry. This comes from a heart of gratitude. (Rom 12:1-2)**
  
3. **Understand the role of leadership (Eph 4:7-16)**
  - a. **The grace to serve is given to each believer in accordance with Christ's design. (1 Cor 12:7). Think of the three, the twelve and the seventy-two.** There were more than the "12 Apostles." (1 Cor 15:3-7). Who are we that we should serve the Living God? 1 Jhn 3:1-2
  - b. **He (Christ) gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Notice that the text states that "He" gave...". One's gifts are determined by Him. (1 Cor 12:7, 11, 28).**
  - c. **Why this diversity?** It is necessary to produce godly fruit.
    - In general, to make the church healthy and productive. In leadership gifting specifically, to produce spiritual unity, maturity and stability.
    - Instead of the spiritual instability, immaturity and disunity produced by the gifts not functioning, the church will instead:
      - \* Grow more Christlike.
      - \* Will have better cohesion/unity and build itself up in love.
      - \* This will happen as each part does its work.