

A FAMILY TO BUILD

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God has taken diverse people from every corner of society and filled them with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are all different, have different expectations, differing skills and abilities and differing priorities; however, we are all expected to build God's family together. We have no natural ability or talent that bridges all these differences, thus we have to take our instruction from God's word. This focus on family life is more about keeping people in a place of safety from the judgment coming upon this world than it is about having a good time. There is a real urgency to get our lives into order; there are many other lives to save.

The following verses are the result of Paul pleading with his people to know the reason we exist.

ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God (the reason why you have mercy), that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (reasoned) service.

2 And be not conformed to this world (another pattern): but be ye transformed (changed like a grub into a butterfly) by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. By continuous deeds and practices, not just by mental, or theological agreement.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. God has given you your ability, be humble about it and use it according to God's purposes.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office (function):

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. We are family!!

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; We are all motivated in special and differing areas... we need to respond.

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. There are less than good ways to go about our Godly life.

9 Let love be without dissimulation (unpretended). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business (the Lord's business); fervent in spirit (to boil with heat); serving the Lord;

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer (unwavering);

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints (meeting peoples needs); given to hospitality. [PRO 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly...]

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Don't wish evil upon your enemies. [PRO 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.]

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

16 Be of the same mind one toward another (have common purposes). Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Remain open to instruction and learning.

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. This can be hard, but efforts need to be made.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. [PRO 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.]

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Christ did this to you and still offers you the same service, even in your low moments.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

God sees each church as a family and wants us to try and pull it together into a harmonious group. This is only possible if the above principles are applied. There is a real urgency about getting things right as this world is very close to final destruction. God wants us to make the effort... the results actually give us a far better life than one based on lukewarmness. Be encouraged and commit to goals and growth practices.