

highly and not too demeaningly but to see ourselves as those who have been saved by grace and have been given a measure of faith that we might serve. A careful thinking of ourselves will let us know that it is through our yieldedness that God is able to do His work in the world about us. We are people He delights to use. So as we see that we see in verse 4 that we do not all have the same office (duty, ability, gift) but that we all have some office and together, in verse 5, we comprise the body of Christ. This composition is true on a world-wide basis but also on a local understanding. Each of us differs a bit from others that the body might be complete and full. As we use ourselves for the body on that line it is given health and vitality for the growth that honors God.

### C. Conclusion

This is a vital first step that we must not miss. We are saved by grace and allowed to live by grace. The response to that grace is a loving worship that sees ourselves given as living sacrifices for the honor of the Lord. It is not a matter of works...it is a practical outworking of faith. The testimony needs every believer in a state of strength and support..our challenge is to commit ourselves to the health of the body. As we do it, the needs of the body are met and the truth of God is propelled to others.

## III. Learn to Encourage one another

Romans 12:8

### A. Some Introductory thoughts

1. Remember that we are concentrating on the "lesser gifts"...those less often mentioned and so we have passed by the gifts of prophecy, ministering, and teaching in Romans 12:6-7. These are very important but also are often discussed so we are passing them in order to treat less mentioned gifts in the passage.

2. Note also that there is such a thing as a specific gift but an expected application of the gift