

as it is known in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and is indicated in the phrase "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." The following verses (11-12) may apply also but our discussion in this message is limited to verse 10. The connection is apparent: we are to place our brethren ahead of us in duty and honor in order that we might show the reality of saving grace and the love of Christ that is in us. Not all Bible scholars link verse 10 with 1 Corinthians 12:28, to be honest about it, but I have always seen it as a matter of logical consequence. As we put others ahead, we help. We are cast in a supportive role simply by the preferements of love.

As is true with other gifts, our self interests often eclipse what we should mean to the rest of the company. Thus the gift of "helps" is "lesser" in that it is hardly mentioned at all. There is not much fleshly prominence in being a "helper." Other times we may mention it in a demeaning way..-one may be called "just a helper" as if that were an unimportant or insignificant role. But in these Spirit given abilities no role is unimportant, none can be overlooked. And as in some previous studies, all are expected to give this preferment and help...and as we all do it the reality of a greater portion of the gift in one or another may become apparent.

B. Discussion

The clue to the exercise of this gift is in the giving on oneself to the body (compare with our first discussion in this series). The successful doing of that is on the following lines:

1. Helping: What is it?

By simple definition it is the use of our resources in the accomplishment of another's ministry or service. The term used in 1 Cor. 12:28 for "helps" is one that suggests the ability to stand against or with a need and help in sharing it. The concept in Romans 12 is that of putting another's interest as being more