



First Presbyterian

ROME

Relational Reciprocity

I. Scripture Lesson

Romans 12:3-8 (ESV)

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

II. Introduction

“The goal of life is to discover and express your unique sense of self, no matter what others may say or do to challenge your freedom of personality. The narrative arc of your life is finding your personal route to happiness by following your heart, expressing your true self, and then fighting whoever would oppose you—your society, your family, your past, or your church.”

- Trevin Wax, *Don't Settle for the Gospel of Self-Fulfillment*

“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma, which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice, heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become.”

- Steve Jobs, *Commencement Address 2003*.

III. Big Idea

Our union in Christ through faith is the ego-equalizer that builds unity through the humble recognition and expression of our diversity.

- The foundation for community
- The enemy of community
- The work of community

IV. Foundation

“Paul’s metaphorical language is most potent for communicating our union with Christ. The body of Christ depicts the church as an organic being, interconnected through Christ.”

- Tim Chester

V. Enemy

“The strongest challenge to the contemporary church is individualism.”

- Edmund Clowney, *The Compromised Church*

VI. Work

“Paul is then not just listing gifts; he is exhorting each member of the community to use his or her own gift diligently and faithfully to strengthen the body’s unity and help it to flourish.”

- Douglas Moo

VII. Conclusion

“In any Christian view of life, self-fulfillment must never be permitted to become the controlling issue. The issue is service, the service of real people. The question is, How can I be most useful?, not, How can I feel most useful?”

- D.A. Carson,
