

Discipleship Course

Integration into the Church (Romans 12:3–5)

This lesson generally looks at how God enables us to do what He desires for our lives as we seek to serve Him in the church. Every person that has been regenerated has been divinely gifted to serve Christ as a member of His body the church. One does not automatically fulfil their purpose after salvation. There must be right thinking and a process that takes place that must be considered. Let us recap some of these.

- Motivation of our hearts (Rom. 12:1a)—Christ’s love and sacrifice for us drives us to give ourselves to Christ’s purpose for our lives.
- Presentation of our bodies (Rom. 12:1b; I Cor. 6:19-20; 9:24–27)—to “stand near” Christ, willing to serve at His command. This decision is to make Jesus Christ your master
- Separation from the world—to reject the world’s mold (Romans 12:2a; Eph 2:1; Prov. 18:1; I Cor. 6:14–18; Gal. 6:14; Col. 2:18; I John 2:15–17; 5:18–19).
- Transformation of our behaviour—renewing our mind through submission and obedience to God’s Word (Rom. 12:2b; Psa. 119:130; Prov. 18:1; John 8:31-32; I Cor. 6:14–18; II Cor. 3:17–18; Eph 2:1; 4:17–32; Gal. 6:14)

- I. The **Ability** to Integrate—the gift of grace given to each believer to fulfil their place in Christ’s body, the church.
- Grace—A present; anything given or bestowed; anything, the property of which is voluntarily transferred by one to another without compensation; a donation.
- A. It is by **grace** we receive the gift of salvation (Eph 2:8).
- B. Grace is given to **enable** for service to our King (Heb. 12:28).
- C. The type and effectiveness of our gifts are in **direct relationship** to the amount of grace we receive from Christ (Rom. 12:6).
- D. Our **gifts** increase as our **knowledge** of God increases (II Pe. 1:2; 3:18).
- E. It is every believer’s responsibility to be a good **steward** of God’s grace (I Pe. 4:10; Eph. 3:7).
- F. The **final** verse of the Bible (Rev. 22:21)

II. The **Humility** to Integrate (Rom. 12:3)

- A. The danger is to think too **highly** of ourselves—to think highly, consider something of great importance.
- B. We are to think **soberly**— to think and act soberly, discreetly, to use sound judgment and moderation, to be self-disciplined.

III. The **Locality** to Integrate (Romans 12:4-5)

- A. God **divides** abilities as He sees fits “*according as God hath dealt*” (I Cor. 12:10–13).
- B. Every man has a **place** in God’s plan (I Cor. 12:14–27) “*...according as God hath dealt to every man...*”
- C. Our effectiveness is in direct relation to our own **faith**.
- D. Jesus Christ chose to express Himself in **local** bodies through each individual member (Eph. 1:10, 22–23; Col 1:17–19).
- E. Every member supply **strength** to the body as a whole (Eph. 4:16, 29; I Cor. 14:12).
- F. Each member is to **help** one another (I Cor. 12:20–27).