

# Toward Clarity, Ownership, Action and Fruitfulness

Firstly, a reminder some of the passages we have been considering recently:

## Ro 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

## 2 Co 3:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> **And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

- I do not transform myself, my mind is renewed and I am changed from glory to glory because of the work the Holy Spirit does in me
- It is also true though, that I will not be transformed unless I am participating (as a living sacrifice) with what He is doing in and through me
- If the renewal of the mind leads to transformation then it must involve my heart as well

Now consider again this passage:

## Eph 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup> **But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.** <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

<sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

- As we learn to discern His will we will find that at the heart of that is this:
  - God is extending His Kingdom through the proclamation of the gospel and through the church
- Jesus is building His church – bringing us into maturity and fruitfulness
- He gives ministry gifts and grace to everyone so that they can be part of this – Eph 4:7-16
- Each one has a part to play – work to do – 1 Peter 4:10

- What could that be for you?
- Various gifts are given to different members of the body – 1 Cor 12
- Gifts, like prophecy, are given for building up the body – 1 Cor 14:3, 26
- There is something we all have to bring: each has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation... All to be done for building up – 1 Cor 14:26
- We are all to be doing the ‘one anothers’ (see below)

### 1 Peter 4:10

As **each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God

Read through **1 Co 12:1–31** in your own time

### 1 Co 12:7–11

**<sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.** <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

### 1 Co 14:1–5

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup>For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. **<sup>3</sup>On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.** <sup>4</sup>The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. <sup>5</sup>Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

### 1 Co 14:26–33

<sup>26</sup>What then, brothers? **When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.** <sup>27</sup>If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. <sup>28</sup>But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup>Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. <sup>30</sup>If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. <sup>31</sup>For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, <sup>32</sup>and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. <sup>33</sup>For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

### Jn 15:1-5; 16-17

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.**

<sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but **I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,** so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

# Worksheet – 15 April 2018

## My part counts

- The will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect, includes things that we all have a part in – like the ‘one anothers’ (see below)
- The will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect, also includes things that are specific to the gifts / call of God in my life
- Only I can play my part – only I can bear the fruit that is to be borne on me as a branch
- I do that as a branch that is abiding in the Vine – resourced, empowered, directed by the Holy Spirit
- Abiding in the Vine does not ‘cause’ the fruit (or the branch) to grow – the life that flows from the Vine does that
- At the same time, there is no growth or fruitfulness unless the branch abides in the Vine
- A part of abiding would be in the renewing of my mind and in my life being aligned with the will of God; what is good and acceptable and perfect
- I “do my part” as part of the body (the church)
- I “do my part” in the church
- Others in the church also help me to “do my part”
- I also “do my part” in the world as part of the church’s mission into the world – extending the Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel

1. What do I feel is God saying to me about this?

2. To what extent is my ‘mind’ in alignment with the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect?

3. To what extent is my ‘heart’ aligned with the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect?

4. What fruit have I borne in the past?

- In the church

- In the world

5. What part do I believe God wants me to play going forward?

- In the church

- In the world

6. What would help me gain greater clarity, skilfulness (equipping) and confidence around what my part is?

7. How could I help others gain greater clarity, skilfulness (equipping) and confidence around what their part is?

8. What other questions would I like answered about this?

9. What can I start doing / do more of this week?

## 'One Another' Passages in the New Testament

1. Love one another / be devoted to one another in brotherly love: *John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Romans 12:10; 13:8; 14:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 3:22; 4:8; 23; 4:7, 11-12; 2 John 1: 5*
2. Serve one another (in love) / Wash one another's feet: *John 13:14; Galatians 5:13 (in love); 21; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 4:9; 5:5*
3. Give preference to / honour one another: *Romans 12:10*
4. Accept one another: *Romans 15:7, 14*
5. Be humble toward one another, bearing with each other in love: *Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13; 1 Peter 5:5*
6. Encourage one another: *Romans 14:19; 15:14; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 3:13 (daily); 10:24-25*
7. Build one another up: *1 Thessalonians 5:11*
8. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God: *1 Peter 4:10*
9. Admonish / instruct one another: *Romans 5:14; Romans 16:16; Colossians 3:16*
10. Spur one another on toward love and good deeds: *Hebrews 10:24*
11. Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs: *Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16*
12. Strengthen one another: *Romans 14:19*
13. Help one another: *Hebrews 3:13; 10:24*
14. Have equal concern for each other: *1 Corinthians 12:25*
15. Care for one another: *Galatians 6:2*
16. Be concerned for one another: *Hebrews 10:24*
17. Be interested in one another: *Philippians 2:4*
18. Be patient with one another: *Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13*
19. Be kind / tender-hearted / compassionate toward one another: *Ephesians 4:32*
20. Comfort one another: *1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11*
21. Carry one another's burdens: *Galatians 6:2*
22. Agree with one another: *1 Corinthians 16:20*
23. Pray for one another: *James 5:16*
24. Be of the same mind to one another: *Romans 12:16; 15:5*
25. Live in harmony with one another: *Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8*
26. Be at peace with one another: *Mark 9:50; Romans 12:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:13*
27. Forgive one another: *Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13*
28. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling: *1 Peter 4:9*
29. Greet one another (with a holy kiss / kiss of love): *Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14*
30. Meet with one another: *Hebrews 10:25*
31. When you come together to eat, wait for one another: *1 Corinthians 11:33*
32. Be accountable to one another: *Ephesians 5:21*
33. Submit to one another: *Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5*
34. Commit to one another: *1 John 3:16*
35. Build trust with one another: *1 John 1:7*
36. Confess to one another: *James 5:16*
37. Do not be conceited / boastful toward one another, challenging one another, envying one another: *Galatians 5:26*
38. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves: *Philippians 2:3*
39. Do not be consumed by one another: *Galatians 5:14-15*
40. Do not anger one another: *Galatians 5:26*

41. Do not lie to one another / speak the truth with each other: *Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9*
42. Do not pass judgment on one another: *Romans 14:13; 15:7*
43. Do not grumble toward one another: *James 5:9*
44. Do not slander one another: *James 4:11*
45. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people: *1 Thessalonians 5:15*