



# Without The Hands... It's Defeat

## Romans 12:3-13

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### **12:3 God's grace and what it means to be the Church.**

1. What does it mean to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think?
2. How does Paul describe the mind-set (and heart level attitude) we should have?
3. How can understanding God's mercy and grace provide wise boundaries for our over active egos?
4. These days, what are you doing to avoid thinking too highly of yourself?
5. What are you doing to help you think with sobriety?

### **12:4-8 Paul's application part #1: Engage!**

1. Paul focuses on three important truths about the Church as the body of Christ. What does he say about:  
1) Unity; 2) Diversity; and 3) Interdependence?
2. Thinking through Paul illustration of the church as a living body would you agree or disagree: Sameness is not equality and inequality is not difference.
3. How crucial are you to the healthy functioning of Creekside?
4. Is it easy or hard to see yourself this way? Why or why not?
5. What happens if you choose to not engage with the Creekside for worship, Bible study (i.e a Life Group or some other group study), serving the church, and reaching others with the gospel? What happens if you do?
6. These days, how are you doing at prioritizing your consistent being a part of what God is doing at Creekside? What would it take to engage more consistently?

### **12:9-13 Paul's application part #2: Passion!**

1. What does Paul mean by, "*Let love be genuine*"? How does he describe genuine love? What examples does he give?
2. Paul is to the point practical about how to love others in very practical and tangible ways. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 meaning doing really good), looking at Paul's list, how are you doing?
3. What would it take to move your answer one point to the right (i.e. close to a 10)?
4. Putting question #3 slightly different: To genuinely love others means making choices in how we prioritize our time, talent, and treasure. What do your priorities indicate about the genuineness of your love for others at Creekside? Are there any changes in your priorities you might need to make?
5. Sometimes it is hard to "hang in there" with people in the church (understatement). Wouldn't it be easier to just move to another church? Agree or disagree? Why is it crucial that we stay and "hang in there" with each other?

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

1. How is what Paul describes here different than the world view of "teamwork"?
2. Paul began this section of Romans (12:1,2) by focusing on worship and the transformation of our lives from conformity to the world to living life according to the will of God. How does what Paul writes here (12:3-13) help us to continue in that process?

### **TAKE HOME QUESTIONS:**

1. If you had to pick just one insight from this study that speaks specifically to you, what would it be? Why?
2. How do you plan to respond to it this week?
3. Who do you know who needs to hear what was helpful for you in this study? When will you share this encouragement with them?