

## 10.2.16 Identity

### Discussion Questions

#### Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

#### Questions

**Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.**

1. What unique skills, gifts or talents do you have?
2. How do you feel when you do something you are especially good at?

#### Background

Paul wrote the letter to the Romans to help settle some disagreements that had arisen within their churches. He is writing to offer clarity around what it takes to be a follower of Jesus. Chapter 12 opens with the word, therefore, which is designed to point us to that which came before. Chapter 11 closes with a prayer reminding us that we do not think like God does and that everything exists only because of him which should move us to praise. The opening verses of chapter 12 make it clear that we are called to respond to the work Jesus has already done and to hold him up as the measure of goodness. Paul is making the point that within the body of Christ there is no room for hierarchy rather we are to work together to reflect the one who gave us our gifts and talents.

Read Romans 12:1-8

**Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.**

1. What is the outcome of being transformed by the renewing of our minds?
2. According to verse 3, how are we to think of ourselves?
3. What analogy does Paul use, in verses 4 and 5, to discuss the relationship we are all supposed to have in the church?
4. Which gifts are listed in verses 6 through 8?

**Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.**

1. What does it look like to be transformed in our thinking so that we can test and approve what God's will is?
2. What is the key to thinking of ourselves with sober judgement and avoiding the pitfall of thinking of ourselves as useless and worthless?
3. As parts of one body we should be working together. Why do you think it is so rare for followers of Jesus to actually work together to share his message?
4. Are the gifts listed in verses 6 through 8 the only ones that should be present in the body of Christ? Which others do you see in yourself or others you know?

**Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.**

1. What does true worship look like in our world and how do we take steps to practice making that reality every day not just Sunday?
2. When you are most focused on being like Jesus what action do you feel compelled to take?
3. What will it take for Hillcrest to become one body with many parts all working together?
4. How do we work together so that we each bring our part in order to show others who Jesus is?

#### Closing

We are all taught from a young age that we are special, however, only God is truly special. The good news is we belong to him and he has given us many amazing gifts and talents. If you did not all have a chance to share your unique gift that you bring to the body take a few minutes to do that before you finish your evening together. Then take a couple minutes to pray for one another for opportunities to share your unique skill or talent with others for the glory of Jesus.

Reminder: We did not come into this world by chance or happenstance and our true identity is defined and refined by Jesus. It is to him and him alone that we ultimately belong and he gives us our story and the lens through which to understand it.