Romans 12:4-6 July 30, 2017

***Made For This!***

# *"In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ’s body, let’s just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren’t." - Romans 12:4-6 (MSG)*

# Big Idea:

# We have a part to play in God’s story. This involves using the unique gifts He has entrusted to us through the Holy Spirit.

# *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." - 1 Peter 4:10*

# To be what we were made to be we must let go of what we were not made to be.

# Jacob & Esau:

# *But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn. -* Genesis 25:33-34

*Isaac began to tremble uncontrollably and said, “Then who just served me wild game? I have already eaten it, and I blessed him just before you came. And yes, that blessing must stand!”* - Genesis 27:33

*Finally, his father, Isaac, said to him, “You will live away from the richness of the earth,and away from the dew of the heaven above. You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you decide to break free,
you will shake his yoke from your neck.”* - Genesis 27:39-40

*We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. -* 2 Corinthians 10:12

# Comparison compromises our mission

# “Comparison is the thief of joy.” – Theodore Roosevelt

# Comparison leads us to be proud or discouraged

# God is in charge

# *But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. - 1 Corinthians 12:18*

*The One who has worked and tailored us for this is God Himself, who has gifted His Spirit to us as a pledge toward our permanent home. In light of this, we live with a daring passion and know that our time spent in this body is also time we are not present with the Lord. The path we walk is charted by faith, not by what we see with our eyes. - 2 Corinthians 5:5-7*

**Our Response:** *Discovering what we were made to be...*

1. **Place our life before Him**
*Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.*
2. **Humbly receive His grace**
*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. - Romans 12:3*
*Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place*
*of grace already given. John 1:16*
3. **Participate in community**
*Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body. - Rom. 12:3*

# *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:7*

# *God wants you to know His story. Knowing connects us, links us, bonds us to something greater than we are. Knowing reminds us that we aren’t floating on isolated ponds but on a grand river.*

#  *-Max Lucado*

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# Comparison leads us to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# 2. God is \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**C. Participate in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
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