



September 25, 2022

“The Mosaic Mystery”

Romans 12:3-8

The Problem Paul is addressing: vs. 3

Problem: Not to think of oneself more highly than one ought to think

Diagnosis: horizontal measuring stick (see 11:17-24 and the branch competition)

(Superiority is easy to achieve by picking an enabling comparison target)

Treatment Plan: sober judgment by means of a vertical/personal equation

Individual Grace Tracks: see verse 6, 1 Cor 7:17, Ephesians 4:7

All are given a *sufficient measure of faith* to understand & press into our particular gift mix

Individual Grace Tracks Do Not Lead to Individualism: vs. 4-5

On the contrary, differences make necessary the great assembling

Paul's favorite analogy of the body and its many parts: see also 1 Cor 12

Wholeness through interdependence (as rooted in the Trinitarian nature)

Grace (Spiritual) Gifts: vs. 6-8

The Biblical assumption: everyone with a gift: also see 1 Cor 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10

The impoverishment of both individual and community when not used

A word on the gift lists in the NT as exemplary: 1 Cor 12, Rom 12, Eph 4, 1 Pet 4

Prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, showing mercy

The local church is more than an efficient machine of interdependence

The Macro Principle of the Mosaic

The story of the world as a mosaic masterpiece

Creation - Fall - Redemption - New Creation (the scars on the hands of Jesus)

The Beloved Community: mini-mosaic within the grand mosaic

Failures forgiven, broken pieces back in the mix, patience with one another's edges

Demonstrating the superior quality of post-breakage beauty!

Question for Further Reflection: what is my unique contribution to the Highland Beloved Community? How has my brokenness been redeemed in, with, and for my church family?

"The original masterpiece of created order was shattered into a billion pieces—tiny fragments of once-innocence and untested perfection, now ragged-edged, burnt, disfigured, hurtling outward toward the edges of despair. God without panic immediately set in motion a second work of art to follow—one that would eventually outrun the first masterpiece in beauty-- pale it by comparison. This work of art would be a mosaic—a re-collection of every broken shard tumbling in all the far places of the bent world, a re-placing of all of them into a new setting that would display forever the unimaginable goodness, wisdom, and love of the Triune God. "

*from the preface to **The Cast***

Thoughts to Close the Annual Meeting

FLING!

1. **Faithfulness in small things:** (Mission Map)
 - a. Each of us tending to our spiritual health
 - b. Each of us not neglecting to meet together
 - c. Each of us tuned into our mission outpost
 - d. Each of us one small part of our shared mission: either help is some way at Preschool, Highland Middle, Highland ministry
2. **Love One Another:** humbly serve one another, think the best, encourage each other, be there for each other
3. **Invite Holy Spirit** into everything.
4. **Notice newcomers, visitors, the ones testing the waters, the ones hanging around the margins**
5. **Generous with our building and social relief**
 - a. ILA
 - b. Foodbank
 - c. Recent wave of activities: Young people's conference, Bob Do's church planting group, AA, Echo Chorus