

What is your job? Are you successful? No, I didn't ask what you do for a living, and I don't need to know your salary or your net worth. I asked what your job is, and I am wondering how it is going. Read through this scripture, and then try to answer my questions again.

Romans 12:5-8

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

So, I ask again....what is your job? How is it going? Are you successful? Or do you have too many worldly tasks going on in life to even think about being a living sacrifice? Be careful how much rationalization you allow yourself here. God's idea of success is completely different from what the world has defined as success. If we are too caught up in evaluating ourselves by the world's standards and not God's we can miss out on understanding our true value in God's eyes. I know that this is a tough one for most of us. It is hard for us to separate the two. But, living as a redeemed body, we must conquer these concepts and live by them. As the scripture states, in Christ we form one body and belong to each other. We have a personal responsibility to others, not just ourselves.

So, I will ask for a third time....what is YOUR job? How is it going? Does God think you are successful? Do you need help discovering what your job is? When we read the scripture above we get a whole list of ideas. Everything from prophesying to serving and showing mercy. There is something for all of us to do in the name of our loving father. What type of person are you? Are you a leader, do you like to plan, manage, and organize? Perhaps you are a messenger, not necessarily to make predictions, but to spread God's word, to preach? Are you a faithful and loyal servant? Are you a clear thinker and able to teach others? Are you encouraged by God's word to motivate others? Have you been blessed by your income and are generous to give? Are you caring and wanting to share your time with others? This list is far from complete, God is much more creative than I. But it is a start. How do you identify yourself, and how can you use some of your traits to serve God by serving others? Certainly none of us possess all of these characteristics, but God has graced us each with something to use for him. That is part of what makes the body operate so well. For example, when thinking of the human body, we can't all be the brain or the liver. Some of us need to be extremities or smooth muscle tissue or whatever. The human body would not function with 2 digestive tracts and no respiratory system. We can't all be the heart, sure we would love the status of such an important job, but some of us need to be the red blood cells in the background, quietly transporting that much needed oxygen to all of the vital organs. Do you get where I am going with this? The body of believers works in the same way. Even in serving Christ, some folks have louder, more visible jobs than others. But, in God's eyes every job is equally important. He does not define success the same way we do. In my non-professional opinion I would think God would consider our obedience as success. Am I doing what he asked of me? I am doing it with a reverent and grateful heart? Is my motivation behind my action complete desire to please God and honor him in what I am doing? Am I loving others because I so dearly love God? If my answer to each of those questions is yes, I am surely successful, whether one single human noticed and applauded me or not. "If God is glorified, I am satisfied." God has given each of us different gifts so that we can be balanced and work together for the good of his kingdom. Now, sometimes we have issues with this. We criticize those who operate differently than we do. We judge their actions without really knowing

the heart behind it. Ephesians 2 :10 sums that up pretty well. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Notice that said "we", not just you:) God has created each of us to glorify his name!

OKAY! For the last time, what is your job? And, really, how is it going? Can you be a little more effective? What is God saying to you about all of this? I ask you to prayerfully consider all that is filling your life right now. How much is really set aside to be successful for God? Are you basing your success by the world's standards? Do you feel better about yourself when you have more money in the bank or that new item you have been dreaming of? Be careful! That is so dangerous, do not fall into that trap. Success is not measured by college degrees, by income, by how much stuff we have, by the number of friends on our Facebook page, by how well we please others and so on. Stop getting all huffy, it is not wrong to have an education or a good job or any of those things if that is what God wants for you. I am simply asking you to search your heart and be honest with yourself about your motivation. If it is not God, then get on your knees and go to him and ask for guidance. How can you use the gifts he has graced you with, you know, the traits and talents you automatically possess that required no work on your part at all, the blessings, to serve him? Let's pray.

Lord, through your word and your precious Holy Spirit we are taught and given such wonderful guidance. We thank you that we can come to you at any time, and that we get a fresh start when needed to learn what it is you want for us. We ask that you forgive us for our motivations that are not yours. We ask that you help us to know how you want us to serve. We ask that you help us to understand that your glory is all the success we need, and that we not worry what the world says. We are so blessed when we are obedient to you. Please keep hold of our hearts so that we may not judge ourselves by possessions, status, and other distractions that take our attention and focus away from your and your plan. Thank you for your undying love for us. We want to please you in all we do and keep you at the center of our hearts. Speak to us Lord, and tell us what you want us to learn from this scripture and how you would like us to apply it to our own lives. In your great name, Amen.