

There are dangerous shoals on either side of the channel of sober judgment through which the believer is to pass in making a self-evaluation. On the one side is pride which is the heart attitude of the one who over-estimates his abilities.³⁷ Ministers are not helped in this when people expect them to possess all the gifts in perfect balance and working order. In spite of expectations, Anders Nygren's advice is fitting:

The Christian must not strive to be everything. There is only one who comprises everything, Christ. . . So it is true of the Christian that he is only a member of that body. However richly equipped he may be, and however great the commission entrusted to him, he still is, and ever remains, only a member.³⁸

There is a great need for both ministers and congregations to assimilate the principles taught in Rom. 12:3-8. A truer image of the minister and his role is urgently needed. Sound teaching in this regard will take some of the undue pressure off those who desire to serve Jesus Christ.

The danger on the other side, that of underestimating oneself, is probably less a threat but nevertheless is to be noted. Too often this attitude grows out of sinful comparing with others and in some

³⁷Trench distinguished the shoals of pride expressed in the words *ἀλαζών*, *ὑπερήφανος*, and *υβριστής*. The first term has to do with verbal boasting, empty professions of virtues and exploits not possessed or accomplished. *ὑπερήφανος* has to do with the proud person's thinking, "He that is sick of himself above others, in honour preferring himself." Trench. The last term describes the cruel spiteful actions of pride. Richard C. Trench, Synonyms of the New Testament, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1953), pp. 98-105. Also see Rom. 1:30 and 2 Tim. 3:27.

³⁸Nygren, Anders. Commentary on Romans, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1949), p. 421.