

Equipped to Serve, Learning Spiritual Gifts

October 15, 2017

1 Corinthians 12:1-6

Imagine all God's people serving in at least one area of ministry. This includes inside and outside of God's Church. What would that look like? How would that change things? How would that grow us as individuals? How would that grow us as a Church?

- **Personality Discovery** - discover personality style based on the DISC model.
- **Learning Spiritual Gifts** - discover spiritual gifts from a scripture-based, 16-gift model.
- **Abilities Awareness** - discover the most effective environment for them to comfortably serve.
- **Connecting Passion with Ministry** - identify passions for ministries and people, and discover how to best demonstrate that passion.
- **Experiences of Life** - explore the effects of past experiences and how they play a vital role in finding a place of service.

God, through Jesus, has not only saved us, but has saved us to be surrendered disciples of Himself, to love and serve Him and others. Is He your Savior? Is He your Lord?

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Acts 2:36

We agree in word and in action that God has made Jesus “The Christ” as that is how we are saved. We put our faith in Him, He takes our sin away and we are saved to Heaven and away from Hell. We are saved also unto a relationship with Him.

What about “Lord”? He is not just Christ, but Lord. It can't be one or the other, it is a both/and! Is Christ just your Savior only or your Lord as well?

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Matthew 7:21-23

My former youth pastor used to say, “To be a Christian is to make a one-time decision (response to God's drawing) to become a life-long disciple of Jesus Christ.”

If He is our Savior (Christ) and Lord then we know Him and He knows us. Not only that, but God has gifted us to serve Him and in turn serve others.

Our gifts are not for **us**, for **our** glory or to get a “that a boy/girl.”

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, **that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

1 Peter 4:10-11

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the **profit of all.***

1 Corinthians 12:7

*“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, **let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.**”*

1 Corinthians 14:12

Gifts given to me by the Spirit are to, in turn, be used to worship God and edify His Church, not divide it.

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

John 13:15-17

Spiritual gifts are just that, a gift. It can't be earned. It can't be bought. It is most useful (and correct) when used with the purpose given and by whom it was given.

In today's passage, here is what we see about the gifts:

1) Diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

While not all gifts are the same, they are given by the same Spirit.

Diversity is good. Its good we don't all only have the gift of teaching, or administration or helps.

We need to **celebrate** the diversity.

If you are a Believer, you have been given at least one Spiritual Gift, maybe a few, but at least one.

2) Differences of ministries (services), but the same Lord.

All are **important**.

All are **needed**.

I serve because He is Lord. My service is to Him and then to others.

What is my motive? God, others, self? Burn out!!!

3) Diversities of activities (operations), but it is the same God who works all in all.

God does the work, I obey, I follow, and I look where He is at work and join Him.

Gifts that we looked at this week:

- **Administration** - Romans 12:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28
Often are those figuring out how it is going to get done, organizers, planners. Asking that who, what, when, where, why and how.
- **Discernment** - 1 Corinthians 12:10
The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment to enable certain Christians to clearly recognize and distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the flesh in a given situation.
- **Evangelism** - Ephesians 4:11
Comes natural, look for those who may be lost, looks for opportunities. Not an excuse for those of us who do not have the gift to "leave it with them."
- Exhortation/ **Encouragement** – Romans 12:8
Always look to offer works of kindness, encouragement, see the best and challenge others (in a good way).
- **Faith** - Hebrews 11
Unwavering faith

Prayer Focus:

I would recognize or ask God to show me my Spiritual Gift over the coming weeks.

I would seek to look at how I can use that gift(s).

I would be ready to connect with PLACE come January.