

You Be You!

Understanding How And Why We Were Made:

Romans 12:3-8

- ✓ Giftedness always starts with **humility**.
 - Humility is not a **low opinion** of self, but an **honest** and **accurate** one.
 - Our gifts don't make us better than anyone else, just **uniquely different**.

- ✓ Our greatest **gifts** will always be our greatest **weakness**.
 - A **gift** is simply a **gift**...get **over yourself!**

- ✓ Spiritual **giftedness** does not equal spiritual **maturity**.

- ✓ Our gifts are to be used for the **Kingdom**, not just for **ourselves**.

A Famous Example:

1 Samuel 17:16-50

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 21, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Your Growth Group has firsthand experience seeing "the body of Christ" in action through Weekend of Service, service projects in the community and time spent sharing with each other. Think about each member of your group and write down one strength, character trait or positive action you've seen from each person.

2. Most people attending church for a while have heard the term "spiritual gift" before. Despite this, many people are still unaware of their gifting(s). Why do you think that is?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Part of the free will we've been given is that God gives us talents, strengths and abilities but does not force our hand in using them. This means we can choose to use something intended for good in a different way than God intended. What might it look like to use the gifts and strengths below in misguided or unhealthy ways?

Service (eg. constantly serving while your family never sees you)

Compassion

Giving

Encouragement

Teaching

How could Ephesians 4:11-16 help us realign using our gifts for the right purpose?

Ephesians 4:11-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

2. One of the first steps in understanding our gifts and abilities is to increase our self-awareness. Self-awareness is the ability to understand who we truly are and what God has made us to be. As you go through the verses below, write down principles that could help someone grow in self-awareness.

Proverbs 20:5 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters,
but one who has insight draws them out.

Romans 12:3 *New International Version (NIV)*

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

³For 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.

Psalms 26:2 *New International Version (NIV)*

²Test me, LORD, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;

1 Timothy 4:16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

What principles above do you need to work on the most?

One of the biggest ways to grow your self-awareness is being open to feedback from other people. Who, if anyone, is allowed to speak into your life?

How receptive would you say you are to other's feedback about you?

3. We live in a very individualistic society where depending on others can be seen as a weakness or looked down upon. Because of this, the idea of working together or being one "body" of Christ can feel somewhat foreign. What guidance does 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 give on being a united body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 *New International Version (NIV)*

Unity and Diversity in the Body

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked

it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

What could happen if someone isn't playing their part?

How does this passage address diversity and unity occurring at the same time?

TAKING IT HOME

Use the following questions to help you focus on using your gifts:

- What are a few of my strengths or gifts? Where am I most prone to use them? Least?
- If you don't know your giftings, what friend, counselor, Growth Group leader, family member, pastor etc. could help you discover what your gifts are?
- Are there any gifts, strengths or abilities you have that you'd like to be more intentional about using in the next few weeks?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒
- ⇒

Opportunities to Use Your Gifts

Are you looking for a place to put your gifts into action? Here are a few ministries that you might consider:

- **Prayer Connection** – Stay after one or more services a month in your preferred venue or campus to pray with people. Write “Prayer Connection” on your Communication Card at any weekend service.
- **Venue/Campus Hosts** – Volunteer to help host at a weekend service for your venue or campus. Write “Venue/ Campus Host” on your Communication Card at any weekend service.
- **Midweek Office Help** – Do you enjoy working in an office environment and can work with Microsoft Office and do general administrative tasks? If so, we need your help. If interested, email volunteer@northcoastchurch.com.
- **Community Service** – Find a number of turn-key projects that make it easy to serve others in North County at NorthCoastCommunityService.org.