



Lesson 6 -- Body Life -- Ephesians 4:7-16

Goal: to Understand the Function of Spiritually Gifted People in Christian _____.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” 9 (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God’s 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 men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into 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.



Getting in SHAPE for Ministry Way

Key Idea: Christian community, especially _____, are the best place to use your spiritual gifts to _____ the body of Christ.

LARGE GROUP BIBLE DISCUSSION -- Eph. 4:7-16



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SUMMARY: FIVE WAYS THE CHURCH IS IMPACTED BY USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

1. Body of Christ will be _____ (Eph. 4:12)
2. Body of Christ will experience _____ (Eph. 4:13)
3. Body of Christ will increase their _____ of the _____ of God (Eph. 4:13)
4. Body of Christ will become _____ (Eph. 4:13)
5. Body of Christ, the church, will become like _____ (Eph. 4:15)

TEACHING:

Q: What is the meaning of the Body of Christ?

- The _____

22 And God placed all things under his [Christ's] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Eph. 1:22-23)

Q: What system did God choose for the internal organization of the Body of Christ?

NOT, a benevolent _____ (one pastor in charge of all)

NOT, a _____ (all the members rule)

But, an _____ with Christ as the head, and all members functioning according to their spiritual gifts.

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ... 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Cor. 12:12-13,27)



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Q: What does this mean if lived out in church life?

Is your church an organization or an organism?

	Program-based Church	Body-life Church
Structure	Strengthen the Bureaucracy	Building _____
Classes	To teach information	Developing _____
Events	Not tied in to overall purpose	Opportunity for _____
Activities	To give Christians something to do	_____ Christians & Groups

Many churches will look the same on the outside, but when you get inside, you sense the focus.

Biblical guidelines for using spiritual gifts in the Body:

❖ **Spiritual Gifts are used in the context of the _____.**

• Eph. 4:16

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.

• 1 Cor. 12:18

18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

❖ **Usage of the gifts must conform to _____**

• 2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



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- 1 Cor. 13 (used in love)

- 1 Cor. 14:19, 40

19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

❖ The Body _____ the value & impact of your gift

- 1 Cor. 12:7

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- Eph. 4:16

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.

❖ There is a _____ that the Holy Spirit is at work

- 1 John 4:1

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

- 1 Thess. 5:21

Test everything. Hold on to the good.

❖ The Holy Spirit is using the Gift for truth & as a testimony to _____

- John 15:26

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”

❖ There is evidence of godly _____ from the usage of the Gift

- John 15:8

This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

- Matthew 7:16

By their fruit you will recognize them.



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❖ The Gift is used for the _____

• 1 Cor. 12:7

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

❖ The Gift is used in _____

• 1 Cor. 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

❖ The Gift is used in a manner _____ of our _____

• Ephesians 4:1

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

• Acts 8:9-24 (Simon the Sorcerer)

What about unity?

1 Corinthians 12:14-20

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



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Q: Does knowing my spiritual gifts guarantee successful ministry?

A: Spiritual gifts operate by _____.

Spiritual principles for effective service: _____, _____, _____.

Church life involves _____.

SERVILITY VS. SERVANTHOOD

Servility = serving without _____

Servanthood = serving with _____, in the name of _____.

	<u>SERVILITY</u>	<u>SERVANTHOOD</u>
Serves out of:	Obligation	O_____
Is Motivated by:	What others see	What _____ sees
Attitude:	“ _____ _____ _____!”	“Whatever it takes!”
Ministry Mindset:	“ _____ First!”	“My _____ First”
Spirit:	Pride	_____
Results:	Self-seeking	_____ - _____



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OUR RESPONSIBILITY

If I have a spiritual gift, do I have to use it?

- If you want to be _____ with God's purposes for _____.
- 1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
- 1 Timothy 4:14 "Do not neglect your gift."
- 2 Timothy 1:6 "Fan into flame the gift..."

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Q: How would you describe your experience of discovering & using your gifts in the church so far?

Q: What do you think the church would look like if everyone knew, and were using, their spiritual gifts?

Q: What do you lack in order to begin using your gifts for God?

Q: What do you think successful ministry (in general) looks like?

Q: What would successful ministry (specifically) look like for you?