



HOW THE CHURCH IS A BODY,
NOT A BUILDING

Gifted

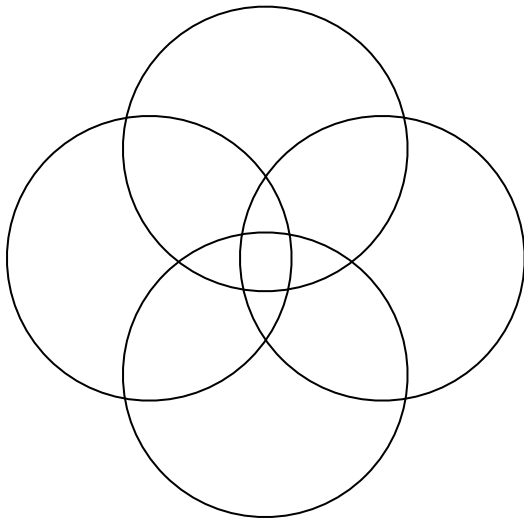
Romans 12:1-13

Sunday, September 15, 2019

3. The gifts God gives are to be used to **SERVE** the body of Christ.

- As we have received grace, so we **SHARE** grace through our **SERVING**.
- **EVERYONE** plays! There are no **BENCH-SITTERS** or **SPECTATORS** in the body of Christ.
- God will hold us **ACCOUNTABLE** for the stewardship of the gifts He gives.

4. The gifts God gives are **DISCOVERED** as we **USE** them.



NEXT WEEK:

SOMA
HOW THE CHURCH IS A BODY,
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*As we lean into the Fall, we want to lean into one another. That's what our SOMA series is all about. SOMA is the Greek word for "body" and that's who we are: the body of Christ. This month we're considering all that that means. Today, we look at how being the body of Christ means that each one of us is **GIFTED**.*

4 truths about our GIFTEDness:

1. God gives gifts to EVERY MEMBER of the body of Christ.

- God sovereignly **DISTRIBUTES** gifts as He sees fit.
- **YOU** have a gift!

2. The gifts God gives are gifts of GRACE.

- We don't **EARN** or **DESERVE** our gifts.
- Because God gives the **GIFTS**, God gets the **GLORY**.



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Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we live out our "body life" together. Most groups have been on break for the summer but are resuming throughout the month of September. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org.

This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody together our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group interaction guide to help groups move in that direction.

Connecting Together

Be sure to take time to connect and share life as you come together. Ways to do this include sharing highs/lows from the week, summer highlights, talking around a "get to know you" question, having one member share their life story in 10 minutes or . . . ?

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Here at Grace Central Coast, we're committed to NOT asking, "How did you LIKE the message?," but rather, "How did you COME UNDER God's Word this week through the message?" So how did you? What was one personal takeaway from the message this week?
2. Read Romans 12:1-13 together as a group. What's the flow and movement of this text? Why do the truths surrounding the giftedness of the body of Christ demand our humility in verse 3?

3. Take a few minutes of quiet in your group to contemplate the intersection of the 4 circle chart in the outline, the intersection of your own interests/passion, experience/skill, fruitfulness/affirmation and current needs. Make a list of your possible gifts. Are you using them to serve others in the body of Christ?
4. What are some reasons why there are so many in the body of Christ who are "unemployed" and not using their gifts?
5. Your Growth Group as a Family: Take some time together to recognize, affirm and list the gifts represented in your group. If your group has been together for a while, you may be able to identify gifts in one another. If your group is a new group, you may have to share your own gifts.
6. Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary: What is true for us as individuals is also true for us as a Growth Groups. Healthy Growth Groups need inflows and outflows. So given the giftedness of your group, how might your group strategically reach out and serve the broader community beyond your group? What might God be calling you to as a group? Brainstorm and begin to pray!

Praying Together

Share and pray for needs, but also pray for the full employment of gifts in your Growth Group and through your Growth Group to the broader community.