

The Relational Disciple



Use Your Gift Among Each Other

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Use your gift among each other.

Read: The primary purpose God has given His gifts to His people, is for the building of the church to maturity and for His divine works of service. The gifts have not been given to us as individuals to build our own individual silos or ministries, where it becomes all about my ministry and my gifting. This is a very anti-Christ position. All the gifts are given for the building up of the body of Christ, even the evangelist, which the main purpose, many still believe, is to preach the gospel to a lost world.

Ephesians 4:11-16: *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

There's another passage in 1 Corinthians 12 which clearly illustrates the purpose of the gifts that God has given His body. I am not saying the gifts are not used in the world, but I am saying their primary purpose and function is to see a healthy body raised in the fullness of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10: *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

A much more subtle position of serving one's self can be found in His body. We can find ourselves serving our self in the body with the gift God has given us. When we serve we are to serve the body with the power of God operating in and through us. This strength has us serving His agenda and His way. If we serve with an agenda then we are serving ourselves. Serving the body doesn't come with hidden agendas.

When love is the posture we serve from, with the gift or gifts God has blessed us with, there is never a hidden agenda operating. It is essential we all come to know the spiritual gift on our life and be actively serving the body of Christ with it. The gift is not to remain unused, but is to be actively operating in the body and when and where appropriate in the world. We are all called to be a prophetic people and this is a gift that is to be used to build the body and have an impact in the world.

If we are not sure what our gifting is can I encourage you to spend time with God and ask Him to reveal it to you. Through relationship with God, the Spirit will speak and reveal to you the gift or gifts on your life that He wants activated and used in this building of His body. I am not talking about finding a position, but the innate posture of being a member of the body, who flows in their gifting where and when required by the Spirit.

Questions:

1. How essential is it for each follower of Jesus to know their gift/s and be flowing in it?
2. Why must 1 Corinthians 13 love define how one serves?
3. Why are the gifts given for the Body first and not the building up of an individual?

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4. How destructive to the building work is it when someone serves with a self agenda?
5. How are you serving with the gift of God on your life in the body and the world?

Pray and encourage one another to press in to all God has for us.