

Unity out of Diversity Pt. 2 “Shaped for Service”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ Sunday, Dec. 3rd

1 Cor. 12:18-27 reminds us that God is intentional in bringing “unity” out of “diversity”. God uses our differences to “Develop” as well as to “Direct” us. He intends us to “*endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*”. Eph. 4:3 (True Peace involves a Partnership!)

Amos 3:3 “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” Genuine agreement is challenging because of our many differences! Let’s examine some of the factors that form our unique “SHAPE”

S: Spiritual Giftedness:

1. Notice the relationship between “gifts’ and “Grace”

1 Peter 4:10 “*As every man hath received the gift, (char’isma: spiritual endowment) even so minister (diakoneō: serve) the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold (poikilos:different, various) grace of God.*”

Romans 12:4-6 “*For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...*”

“Gift” (Charisma) comes from char’is: Grace:

“God’s influence on our hearts and its reflection in our lives.”

2. When we’re “born again” God’s Holy Spirit:

- Indwells us. (Rev. 3:21; Gal 4:4-6; Romans 8:15-16)
- Cleanses us. (John 16:8; Eph. 5:26; 1 Jn 1:7; Titus 3:5)
- Seals us. 2 Cor 1:22; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30)
- Empowers (Gifts) us for Service! Remember “Grace” involves our hearts and lives!

Acts 1:8 “*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses*”

1 Timothy 4:14-15 “*Neglect not the gift that is in thee... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting (Prokopē: advancement) may appear to all.*”

How might we “advance” if we stopped neglecting God’s Gifts?

H: Heart or Passion:

1. God’s Spirit implants God’s passions in us! John 14:21;23

Gal 4:16-19 “*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?... it is good to be zealously affected (zēlo’ō: earnest, passionate) always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you*”

1 Cor 9:24-27 “*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.*

Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run”

How might embracing and cultivating what God is passionate about transform our lives?

A: Abilities: David: Psalm 78:70-72

“He (God) chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.” (Tâbûwn: understanding, skill)

1. God helps us to develop our abilities because He has purposes for them! Ro. 8:28,29
 - Moses as a Wilderness shepherd (40 years)
 - Dorcus as a weaver. (Acts 9:36-40)
 - Peter as a “Fisherman”. (Mt. 5:19)
 - Paul as a philosopher. (Acts 17)

What could happen if we saw (and used) our “abilities” in the light of Eternity?

Personalities: 1 Cor 4:7 *“For who maketh thee to differ from another?”*

1. Our “personalities” can prepare us for and even “point” us in God’s plan.
Our ‘Differences’ are more of a “stepping” than a stumbling stone!
Inspiration rather than an “irritation”!

Experiences:

- 2 Cor 1:3-6 *3 “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.”*

It’s not always about us!

Phil. 1:12,13 *“But I would ye should understand, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel. So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all ... all other places”*

What would happen if we really saw our “life experiences” as tools God can use to help us be channels of His Grace to others?



Are you willing to get in “Shape” to Serve?