

**Romans 12:3-8, SERMON 2:**

**TITLE: "PRESENTING YOURSELF TO CHRIST FOR GIFTED SERVICE  
IN HIS BODY"**

**SPEAKER: Dr. Wesley G. Rowe**

**Calvary Bible Church**

**February 1, 2004**

**Romans 1-11 tell us what God has done for us. Romans 12-16, are written to tell us what God expects us to do for Him.**

**Rom. 12:3-8 have 2 main emphases.**

**(1.) There is the emphases in vv. 3-8 of living the Christian life by faith IN A BODY OF BELIEVERS (vv. 4-5).**

**(2.) There is an emphases in vv. 3-8 of EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER SERVING IN AND FOR THE CHURCH THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) THAT HAS BEEN SOVEREIGNLY GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (v. 6)**

**The Christian life is lived by faith in a body of believers through gifted service in and for that body of believers.**

**MAPS**

**Charles Stanley (First Baptist Church Atlanta):**

**"To neglect engagement with other Christians is to miss out on the essential element in the development of our faith. By engaging and becoming active in a local church, you safeguard yourself against missing out on all that God has for you. Your participation in a local church protects your personal fellowship with God. When you drift away from the family of God, it is only a matter of time until you drift away from fellowship with God.**

**Attending a church and not engaging is like going and attending a health club but not exercising. What good does a health club do you if you attend three times a week to have coffee with a friend? No one could fault you on your attendance, but your health is not affected. You are in no better shape than when you joined. You have a responsibility to actively use your spiritual gifts for the benefit of other believers. . . . You may be so intent on having your needs met that you are overlooking how powerfully God can use you to help others."**

**David Jeremiah (Shadow Mountain Community Church):**

**"Each member of Shadow Mountain Community Church accepts and is committed to the following:**

**...**

**I will seek to discover my spiritual gifts and to use them in some form of Christian service within this church.**

**...**

... If my adherence to the principles above is called in question and should the matter then be taken up by the Governing Board, I agree to submit the difference or charges to that Board. If I remain unwilling to settle the difference on Scriptural grounds (Matt. 18:15-17), then I agree that the church should drop my name from the roll of church membership."

Shadow Mountain has each member publicly agree to the above.

**John MacArthur (Grace Community Church):**

"We teach that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one spiritual Body, the church.

... We teach that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; I Thessalonians 1:1; II Thessalonians 1:1) and that the members of the one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves in local assemblies (I Corinthians 11:18-20; Hebrews 10:25).

We teach that the one supreme authority for the church is Christ and that . . . gifts are appointed through His sovereignty.

We teach the importance of discipleship, mutual accountability of all believers to each other, as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture.

We teach that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. Each local church, however, through its elders should be the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. The elders should determine all other matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government as well.

We teach the calling of the saints to the work of service. . . . We teach the need of the church to cooperate with God as He accomplishes His purpose in the world. To that end, He gives the church spiritual gifts. . . . God gives unique and special spiritual abilities to each member of the Body of Christ."

Grace Community Church then has a "CHARGE OF COMMITMENT" that each member must publicly agree to.

**James Kennedy (Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church):**

"Our mission is to glorify God by reaching the world for Christ and by nurturing and equipping our members in worship, evangelism and missions, vital church participation, and community involvement, in obedience to the Scriptures.

Membership Vows:

...

... Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

**WE ARE TO WORSHIP AND SERVE THE LORD FAITHFULLY AND REGULARLY IN AND FOR A LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS THROUGH USING THE SPIRITUAL GIFT(S) THAT HE HAS GIVEN TO US.**

**1. We have different gifts according to the grace given us.  
Romans 12:6, 3; Eph. 3:1-2, 7-9**

**2. EVERY CHRISTIAN has been supernaturally gifted. No Christian has been left out. I Cor. 12:1, 4-11.**

**A. Spiritual gifts come to us as GIFT(S) OF GRACE**

**"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us" (Rom. 12:6)**

**"But to each one of us, grace has been given as Christ apportioned it" (Eph. 4:7).**

**B. Like all grace, it can be squandered and wasted.**

**I Cor. 15:9-10**

**Anger, fear, pride, jealousy, hurt feelings, stubbornness, laziness, loss of focus/priorities, rebellion toward leadership, etc. are often the causes of the squandering/wasting/non-use of the gift(s). All of these are SIN that is to be confessed and forsaken.**

**C. The regular, faithful, consistent use of my spiritual gift(s) in a body of believers is what constitutes spiritual maturity!**

**Simply filling a pew, paying your tithes, though certainly part of living the Christian life, is NOT all that Christ wants for you. He wants to work His gifts through you to help others.**

**Rick Warren:**

**3. What am I to do with my spiritual gift(s)?**

**A. If I am living a life of faith, I must consistently, faithfully,**

**regularly use my spiritual gift(s) in the local body where I worship and serve.**

**Romans 12:6-8.**

**B. The purpose of spiritual gift(s) to every believer is so that he/she**

**can faithfully serve and ministering to others within the body through the power of Christ living out His life in us so that as a body we come to look just like Jesus**

**Christ (Eph. 4:7-8, 9-13)**

**C. All spiritual gifts are given for the benefit of OTHERS, not for myself!**

**"each member BELONGS TO THE OTHERS" (Rom. 12:5).**

**"Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me FOR YOU" (Eph. 3:2).**

**"my sufferings FOR YOU" (Eph. 3:13).**

**4. Paul knew what his gift was and he made the most of it and he encourages us to do the same with our gifts.**

**A. Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is?**

**Spiritual gift(s) are discovered through faithful service in the body of Christ. Begin faithfully carrying out the responsibilities that God expects of all members of His body, and your spiritual gifts will become evident to the Elders and the laity alike.**

**B. Are you making the most of your spiritual gift(s)?  
(Remember, this is what living the life of faith is. It is lived in a body of believers through serving in and for that body!)**