

**Romans 12:3-8, SERMON 4:**

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

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**4 questions that pertain to the body of Christ and/or spiritual gifts.**

- 1. Why isn't music/singing a spiritual gift?**
- 2. How do leaders in the church relate to the use of spiritual gifts? Or, what role do leaders in the church play in the development and use of spiritual gifts among the laity?**
- 3. Are there ministries/services in the Body of Christ that I am commanded of God to participate in though I am not spiritually gifted in them? Do I only seek to serve and minister in the body of Christ through using my spiritual gifts?**
- 4. What about financial/material support of the body of Christ? What role does God expect each individual member to play in the financial support of the body of Christ-the local church?**

**1. Why isn't music/singing a spiritual gift?**

**"Is music/singing a spiritual gift?**

**"Why isn't music/singing a spiritual gift?**

**In my understanding of spiritual gifts, the ability to sing well (a gifted voice) and/or playing a musical instrument is not a spiritual gift for the following reasons:**

**1.) The ability to sing well and/or play a musical instrument is never mentioned in the lists of spiritual gifts that are given in the NT (Romans. 12, I Corinthians. 12-14, Ephesians. 4, I Peter 4).**

**2.) It is my understanding from the NT that spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit of God to every believer AS A RESULT OF SALVATION (I Cor. 12:1, 7-11; Eph. 4:7-8).**

**I Cor. 12:1, 7-11**

**Eph. 4:7-8**

**Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities that come to us as a result of our salvation in Christ. We would not have them if we were not saved and we did not have them before we got saved. I know of no Christian who did not have the ability to sing and/or play an instrument and upon getting saved, they were given a beautiful singing voice and/or could suddenly play a musical instrument.**

**Whether singing/playing musical instruments are spiritual gifts or not, ALL BIBLE SCHOLARS AND ANY PREACHER WORTHY OF LISTENING TO AGREE ON THIS: SINGING AND/OR PLAYING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ARE A VERY IMPORTANT, HIGHLY IMPORTANT, VITALLY IMPORTANT, INDISPENSABLE, ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY SERVICE IN AND FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST – THE CHURCH!**

**According to the NT, the church of Jesus Christ has five primary responsibilities:**

- Worship (both corporate and individual),**
- Teaching (Edification/Discipleship),**
- Fellowship,**
- Evangelism,**
- Service (to other believers and to the lost world).**

**The ability to sing well and lead others to do so and the ability to play musical instruments well so that God's people (the Body of Christ) can corporately worship God is emphasized throughout the Scriptures. Though a beautiful singing voice and/or a skilled musician are not spiritual gifts, they require the use of a multitude of spiritual gifts (that are mentioned in Scripture) every time worship leaders sing and/or play music instruments in corporate worship (leadership, administration, prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, and governing).**

**Singing/leading in worship/playing musical instruments are important services in the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:1, 4-6.**

**I Cor. 12:1, 4-6**

**Rick Warren correctly says, "Natural abilities that you were born with also came from God. . . . Don't ignore your natural interests. . . . God had a purpose in giving you your inborn interests."**

**Examples are given in Scripture of natural talents being given by God to be used in His service.**

**Exodus 28:2-3;**

**Exodus 31:1-8.**

**Acts 9:39-40**

- 2. How Do Leaders In The Church Relate To The Use Of Spiritual Gifts? What role do leaders/elders/pastors in the church play in the development and use of spiritual gifts that have been given to the laity?**

**James Montgomery Boice says this: "Paul's great letter to the Ephesians is a mini-course in theology, centered ON THE CHURCH, AS THE BODY OF CHRIST."**

**R.C. Sproul says, "The Book of Ephesians is written . . . to show THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST to the believer."**

**The editors of the NIV Study Bible say this:**

**"Paul wrote the Book of Ephesians to expand the horizons of his readers so that they might UNDERSTAND BETTER . . . and come to APPRECIATE THE HIGH GOALS GOD HAS FOR THE CHURCH."**

**Eph. 4:1-3**

**Eph. 4:4-6**

**MAPS**

**Eph. 4:7-8**

**Eph. 4:9-10**

**Eph. 4:11**

**Grandville Sharp rule.**

**How Do Leaders In The Church Relate To The Use Of Spiritual Gifts?  
What is the role of leaders/elders/pastors when it comes to using spiritual gifts?**

**Paul is going to tell us that Jesus has given gifted men to His church and in vv. 12-16, Paul is going to impress upon us the roles that God expects those gifted men to play in the life of His body, the church in order to bring it to spiritual maturity.**

**Eph. 4:12-13**

**God's ultimate goal for His church (each local church) is SPIRITUAL MATURITY-v. 13b.**

**What does spiritual maturity FOR A CHURCH look like? The last part of v. 13 tells us, ". . . become mature, ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST."**

**It is Jesus' goal to transform a group of redeemed sinners into a body of believers (church) that perfectly reflects Him in every way (knowledge, behavior, physical care for one another, spiritual care for one another, laying down our lives**

for each other, washing each other's feet, etc.). Jesus desires **SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN HIS BODY AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS WHEN THE WHOLE BODY WORKS TOGETHER TO REPRESENT AND COMPLETE THE PERSONAL WORKS OF CHRIST THAT HE DID WHILE UPON EARTH.**

**Eph. 4:10**

**Eph. 4:14-21**

**Eph. 1:22-23**

There are steps that get us to maturity as a body and here is where shepherds/ teachers come in.

**1. It is the role of pastors to get every person in the body of Christ trained and working in and for the body of Christ through using their spiritual gifts and natural talents. God has given/placed gifted MEN (specifically pastors/teachers in this dispensation) in His body for the purpose of preparing ALL OF GOD'S GIFTED SERVANTS FOR WORK IN THE MINISTRY/SERVICE TO AND FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**Ephesians 4:11-12a, "pastors/teachers . . . TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE,"**

**2. God requires your spiritual preparation under gifted men (pastors/teachers) whom He has placed in His body FOR THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND BETTERMENT of the body of Christ.**

**Eph. 4:12b, "pastors/teachers . . . to prepare God's people for works of service, SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP"**

**3. One of Jesus' main goals from training under pastors/teachers is to bring the body of Christ (the entire church family) to AGREEMENT IN CONVICTIONS ABOUT THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, HOW THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO BE LIVED, AND AGREEMENT ABOUT THE THINGS OF JESUS.**

**Eph. 4:13, " . . . until WE ALL REACH UNITY IN THE FAITH AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD"**

The NIV Study Bible footnote accurately says, "Here 'faith' refers to the Christians' common conviction about Christ and the doctrines concerning Him . . . Unity is not just a matter of loving attitude or religious feeling, but of truth and a common understanding about God's Son."

**Eph. 4:14**

**Eph. 4:15-16**