

Romans 12:3-8, SERMON 5:

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

SPEAKER: Dr. Wesley G. Rowe

Calvary Bible Church

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Luke first wrote the Gospel of Luke detailing the earthly life of Jesus and later Luke also authored the Book that is called "ACTS" or "The ACTS of the Apostles".

Acts 1:1-2:

"In my former book, I wrote about all that Jesus BEGAN to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven . . . "

FF. Bruce says it this way: "As the Gospel of Luke tells us what Jesus *began* to do and teach while upon earth, so the Book of Acts tells us what Jesus *continued* to do and teach by His Spirit working the Apostles after His ascension back to heaven."

"He could fill the whole universe"

"become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

He cared for the physical and the spiritual needs of humanity.

One holy Catholic Church.

The word "Catholic" means "universal."

One holy Catholic Church means, "One holy Universal Church".

The men who led the Protestant Reformation: Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, John Knox, Theodore Beza, Phillip Melancthon

Protestants then began to emphasize the spiritual needs of humanity; while the Catholic Church placed a heavy emphasis upon the physical needs of humanity. Thus, today it is the Catholic Church that has the pregnancy crisis centers, the orphanages, the adoption agencies, the hospitals, drug treatment centers, Catholic Social Service Agencies, many Catholic Churches have AA groups, and the schools (Notre Dame, Boston College, Fordham, Madonna, U of Detroit, Loyola, University of Chicago, Xavier, U. of Dayton).

We, or at least Evangelical/Fundamental churches have been faithful in addressing the spiritual needs of humanity-that is, in giving the gospel message and leading them to Christ-but we have failed to address man's physical needs and therefore, for

the most part we have no voice in the public square of medicine, pregnancy crisis centers, orphanages, hospitals, education.

Jesus desires both emphases in His church, the spiritual and the physical (and in that order!). It is His will that working through us, together as a body, each using his/her spiritual gifts and talents, we will "attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

Two final questions:

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? What if I don't know what my spiritual gifts are, how and where do I serve?
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?
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Answer: According to the NT, there are gifts of God's grace given as "spiritual gifts" in a unique measure to only some in the body of Christ (not to all), yet all Christians are expected to serve the body of Christ and humanity in those areas too, though those "things" are not their spiritual gift.

Mercy (Rom. 12:8)
Evangelism (Eph. 4:11)
Teaching (Rom. 12:7)
Giving (Rom. 12:8)
Serving (I Pet. 4:11)

4. What about financial/material support of the body of Christ? What role does God expect each individual member/attender to play in the financial support of the body of Christ-the local church?

Answer: God expects each person whom He has redeemed to financially and materially support THE BODY OF BELIEVERS AND ITS MINISTRIES where he/she attends, worships and serves with his/her tithes and offerings.

A. Jesus and the Twelve collected monies to support their ministries.

Jesus and the disciples collected and kept track of funds that were used to support their ministry as they traveled and proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom.

(1.) One reason we know this is because the Gospels tell us that Judas was the treasurer of the group (John 12:4-5; 13:29).

John 12:4-5

John 13:29

(2.) Women traveled with Jesus and took care of his physical needs and those of the Twelve (Mk. 15:40-41).

Mk. 15:40-41

(3.) Jesus instructs the Twelve to depend on the financial support of those to whom they minister (Matthew 10:5-10).

Matt. 10:5-10

B. Acts 2:42-45

C. Acts 4:32-36

D. Acts 11:25-30 (Show map)

John McArthur says this: "This is the first mention of the men who were pastors-overseers of the churches. . . . They soon began to occupy the leading role in the churches, transitioning from the apostles and prophets, who were foundational (Eph. 2:20; 4:11)."

E. I Cor. 16:1-2

NIV Study Bible says: "Every Sunday each person was to bring what he had set aside for the Lord's work-an amount proportionate to his income. Since it was to be brought on Sunday, the new day for worship, probably it was collected at the worship service, not at home. Justin Martyr indicates that in his time (A. D. 150) offerings were brought to the church on Sundays."