**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

JANUARY 16, 2022

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**Gifted for Others**

Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:10-14

1 Corinthians 13



Last week was on Trekking Together and we learned that …

**We** is better than **Me**.

How does God **bless** others through you?

You are gifted for **others**.

What you **have** is what we **need**.

*For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually* ***members one of another****.* ***Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us****,* ***let us use them****:* Romans 12:4–6a

Ignorance is **not** **bliss**.

*Now* ***concerning spiritual gifts****, brothers,* ***I do not want you to be uninformed.*** 1 Corinthians 12:1

Variety is the **spice** of life.

*Now there are* ***varieties of gifts****, but the same Spirit; and there are* ***varieties of service****, but the same Lord; and there are* ***varieties of activities****, but it is the* ***same God who empowers them all in everyone****.* 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

It is all about the **common** **good**.

*To each is given the* ***manifestation of the Spirit*** *for the* ***common good.***1 Corinthians 12:7

What’s your **gift?**

**Romans 12 -** Exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, prophecy, service, teaching

**1 Corinthians 12 -** Administration, apostle, discernment, faith, healings, helps, knowledge, miracles, prophecy, teaching, tongues, tongues interpretation, wisdom

**Ephesians 4 -** Apostle, evangelism, pastor, prophecy, teaching

*And he gave the* ***apostles****, the* ***prophets****, the* ***evangelists****, the* ***shepherds*** *and* ***teachers****, to* ***equip the saints*** *for* ***the work of ministry****, for building up the body of Christ …* Ephesians 4:11-12

**Misc. Passages and gifts –** celibacy**,** hospitality**,** martyrdom**,** missionary**,** voluntary poverty**,** worship/music**,** artisanry

You have an **important** part to play, no matter what you **think** or **say**.

*For the body* ***does not consist of one member but of many****. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.* 1 Corinthians 12:14-15

*And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.* 1 Corinthians 12:16

*If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?* 1 Corinthians 12:17

*But as it is,* ***God arranged the members in the body****, each one of them,* ***as he chose****. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are* ***many parts, yet one body****.* 1 Corinthians 12:18-20

Arrogance and self-sufficiency are **paralyzing** to the body.

*The eye cannot say to the hand, “****I have no need of you****,” nor again the head to the feet, “****I have no need of you****.”* 1 Corinthians 12:21

*that there may be no division in the body, but that* ***the members may have the same care for one another****. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.* 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

*Now you are the body of Christ and* ***individually members of it****.* 1 Corinthians 12:27

**Why is this important?**

Because … we are **Better** **Together**!

*But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And* ***I will show you a still more excellent way****.* 1 Corinthians 12:31

The gift is not as **important** as the **love** with which it is offered.

The most excellent way to use our gifts in the body of Christ is through love. When we love God and love others … we want to do what is in their best interests not ours. Look at 1 Corinthians 13

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,* ***but have not love****, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have* ***prophetic powers****, and* ***understand all mysteries*** *and* ***all knowledge****, and if I have* ***all faith****, so as to* ***remove mountains****,* ***but have not love****, I am nothing. If I* ***give away all I have****, and* ***if I deliver up my body to be burned****,* ***but******have not love****, I gain nothing.*

***Love is******patient*** *and* ***kind****; love* ***does not envy*** *or* ***boast****; it is* ***not arrogant or rude****. It does not* ***insist on its own way****; it is* ***not irritable or resentful****; it* ***does not rejoice at wrongdoing****, but* ***rejoices with the truth****. Love* ***bears all things****,* ***believes all things****,* ***hopes all things****,* ***endures all things****.* ***Love never ends.***

*As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.*

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man,* ***I gave up childish ways****. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* 1 Corinthians 13

To not use your spiritual gift for the glory of God and the building up and blessing of the body is the most unloving thing you can do. It is to say, I do not care about you or Christ’s body, which is the church.

**So what do you need to do?**

1. **Discover** your gift.
2. **Develop** your gift.
3. **Deploy** your gift.

Can you imagine if everyone **knew** their gift, **grew** their gift and **used** their gift to love the body of Christ?

We would be a strong body able to be used by God to do the mission He has called us to do … of *Becoming Whole People who take the Whole Gospel to the Whole World*.