



Connecting to Your Purpose pt. 1 ***DISCOVERING YOUR SHAPE***

January 13, 2008
Sermon Notes

Called (To Serve)!

Ephesians 4:1-3, 7 (New Living Translation)

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

⁷ However, he has given each one of us a special gift^[a] through the generosity of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (New International Version)

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

*What God made me to BE determines what He intends for me to DO. I will understand the **purpose** I was created for when I understand the kind of **person** I am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life! God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! By reviewing and studying these factors, we can discover the ministry God has for us... the unique way God intends for us to serve him.*

How Has God Shaped Me?

Jeremiah 1:4-5 (New International Version)

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 1:4-5 (New International Version)

⁶ "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

Ministry Illuminates Your Shape

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"There are different kinds of **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** but the same Spirit gives them. There are different **WAYS OF SERVING**, but the same Lord is served. There are different **ABILITIES** to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown **IN SOME WAY** in each one, for the good of all."

My Unique S.H.A.P.E.

- **Spiritual Gift**
- **Heart**
- **Abilities**
- **Personality**
- **Experiences**

Spiritual Gifts

- **What am I gifted to do?**

"**UNWRAPPING YOUR GIFT**" will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.

A SPIRITUAL GIFT: Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.

Your Shape is to Minister

Romans 8:28-30 (New International Version)

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

A. Not for my benefit, but for the benefit of others.

1 Peter 4:10

"**Each one of you, as a good manager** of God's different gifts, **must use for the good of others**, the spiritual gift he has received from God."

B. To produce maturity and harmony in our church family.

Ephesians 4:11, 13-14

"It was He who 'gave gifts to men'...to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith...and become mature...Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..."

C. Recognize that you have both primary and a secondary ministry in church:

- My **PRIMARY MINISTRY** commitment should be in the area where I am **GIFTED (FULFILLED)**.
- My **SECONDARY MINISTRY** includes serving in any other area of the Body when I am **NEEDED (FRUITFULNESS)**.