

SERIES: CHURCH 101
SERMON #3

BEFORE YOU COME TO SMALL GROUP THIS WEEEK: Please take some time before your small group meeting to complete a free online spiritual gifts assessment. The assessment may be taken online at: www.spiritualgiftstest.com. Bring the results from your assessment to your small group this week. By no means is this “test” full-proof or exhaustive (or intended to “pigeon-hole” those of you that don’t like to be pinned down ☺), but we hope it will provide some good food for thought to get your brain moving on this topic.

GETTING STARTED

Is this the first time you’ve ever really given any thought to the idea of spiritual gifts? If not, do you remember what it was like the first time you heard about “spiritual gifts”?

DIGGING IN

God has created you with unique spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences. As we serve according to our unique designs, we are living according to God’s plan to use us as His “body.” Like our human body with differing parts created for specific purposes, our differing contributions bring life to the church. When gifts are used properly we show the world the incredible unity *and* diversity of Christ’s body, the Church.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Based on this passage, why do you think God gives us spiritual gifts?

How do Christ-followers get the spiritual gifts they possess?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. The Bible compares the church to a human body, with Christ as the head and all of us as different parts or members of the body. Summarize in a sentence or two what Paul is trying to convey.

What is the ultimate reason we have differing abilities within the church?

LIVING IT OUT

Share and discuss your results from the online spiritual gifts test (mentioned at the top of the page). Did your results “ring true” for you? Where did it seem right on? Where did it surprise you?

As you get to know one another in the weeks to come, try to recognize one another’s gifts in action and affirm how you’ve seen God use each person in the group. Let’s be a church that thanks God for placing different people in His church to serve in unique and wonderful ways.

How do you plan to live out your gifts, passions, and abilities through the ministry of our church? What dreams has God given you to make an impact for His kingdom in that area?

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589.