



DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS SERIES

SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST 2023

Topic: Discipleship Essential: "Gifts of the Spirit"

Romans 12:1-8

Speaker: Ps. Sam Toms

The challenge of finding our fit

Spiritual gifts (Romans 12:4-8)

Heart - Passions

Abilities and talents

Personalities

Experiences

The role of humility (Romans 12:1,3)

Renewed MIND (Romans 12:2)

-The significance of THEN

The church = Bride of Christ!

-When we take hold of God's view of the church, it changes why we use our gifts, and why we become Christ-like.



THE DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE 2023
GROWING & GOING





It can be a rather big challenge, to navigate our purpose and calling in life. Where do we fit, what are we called to be, who are we called to become? These questions can be frustrating as we seek to juggle the busy race of life with the reality of God's kingdom being birthed within us. The SHAPE series is a great way of filtering out and navigating towards clarity about what God has shaped us for.

Q. Do you know your spiritual giftings? You can find some of these gifts in Romans 12:4-8 and in the three chapters of 1 Corinthians 12-14. Have you considered seeking God to bring awareness to the gifts that he has given you?

Ultimately these gifts are for building and equipping and empowering the local church. They are meant to be used within the context of a close-knit community of believers.

In Romans 12:2, the Apostle Paul exhorts his readers to be transformed in their thinking before they discover their 'fit'. Ultimately we need to have the Spirit of God re-define and reorient our thinking into a kingdom thinking that puts a high premium on service, humility and obedience to Christ.

One of the more profound revelations that shape our thinking and enable us to 'want' to serve the 'body of Christ' (the Church) is taking hold of how God sees the church.

The language that Jesus and many of the New Testament authors use to describe the Church is viewing it as the 'bride' of Christ.



Check out these verses

Ephesians 5:25-27

2 Corinthians 11:2

Revelation 19:7-9

Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 22:8

These references emphasize the deep love, sacrificial nature, and purity of the relationship between Christ and the Church, drawing parallels to the profound union found in a marriage. The Bride of Christ concept underscores the spiritual unity and eternal bond between Christ and his believers.

Does the way God sees the church differ from the way you and I see the church? Have we neglected and downtrodden the precious bride of Christ by how we speak about the Church, both locally and internationally?

It is important to realise that we don't need to affirm the behaviours of broken people in church (as we are all broken in various ways), but ultimately the Church is one of the most precious things to God. When we take hold of this, and let it permeate through our lives, we start to realise that there are countless ways that we can be an active participant in the life of the 'body of Christ'.

Q. What ways have you contributed to the discipleship of people within the life of the church?

Q. What excuses have you heard from others as to why they are happy to fence sit and watch?

Q. What have you been given, that needs more attention, or even better stewarding on your behalf?

Read Luke 12:48.

Pray for the church, to have both an awareness and an obedience to respond to the Spirit of God leading.