

# Week Three

## I BELONG . . . TO A MINISTRY

### EPHESIANS 4

*1I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift . . .*

. . . 11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

God has given gifted leaders to the church to EQUIP the body. The body is EACH BELIEVER.

EQUIPPING is the training and unleashing of each believer for ministry service.

### WHY DO WE SERVE?

1. For the BUILDING UP of the body of Christ.
2. To attain unity in FAITH.
3. To attain unity in KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God.
4. To attain MATURITY.
5. To attain the measure of stature of the FULLNESS OF CHRIST.
6. To NOT be “children” who are:
  - drawn back and forth by BAD doctrine.
  - drawn by human cunning, and craftiness in DECEITFUL SCHEMES.
7. To GROW UP in Christ.
8. To be an individual who is a part of a WHOLE that is so much bigger than us.
9. To do “my part” so that the body GROWS.

Ephesians 2:8-10—*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Here is an important truth: God has not saved us BECAUSE of WORK, but saved us TO WORK. Each one of you have a purpose, and it is more than just going about our week at our jobs and then resting on the weekend and coming to church on a Sunday.

He wants to use you to BUILD UP and ENCOURAGE His people and expand His kingdom—which is His influence and reign or rule on the earth.

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1 Corinthians 12:12-27—*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 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. 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. 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? 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. 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.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 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. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

What God has shaped you to BE points to what God has called you to DO.

## **SHAPE**

**S**—SPIRITUAL GIFTS: a divine enablement—the ability or want to do things.

**H**—HEART: what you naturally like or are designed to do.

**A**—ABILITIES: your unique abilities and talents.

**P**—PERSONALITY: your unique way your personality—introvert, extrovert.

**E**—EXPERIENCES: highs and lows, God wastes nothing.

There are two dimensions of SERVICE: Where we are SHAPED to serve and where we are NEEDED.

- You are most SATISFIED and God is most glorified when you serve in your SHAPE.
- You serve first where we are shaped and SECOND where we are needed.
- We cannot only respond to serve only where there are need. But also there are times when we serve out of a servant’s heart, because we are needed.
- The best situation is when we meet both—a place of NEED that MATCHES our shape.

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### **Benefits of serving**

- A great way to get CONNECTED by joining one of our volunteer teams.
- You will get way more out of serving than you put into it (if we find your best fit).
- Puts feet to your FAITH (deepen your spiritual walk).

### **Group Discussion:** (SHAPE Homework)

1. What did you discover about your SHAPE?
2. Were there any surprises? Any “aha” moments?
3. How did this exercise help you discover how God has specifically and uniquely made you?

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God has made you to belong to a church...and He has made you to belong to a ministry.

## **TWO WAYS OF SERVING LOCALLY**

- 1) Partner up with a local non-profit doing ministry in our city. Some good ones are . . .
  - Union Gospel Mission
  - Hope Station
  - Hope Pregnancy Clinic

- 2) Join Morning Star in serving at one of our annual events.
- a. **Feed Salem** One of the greatest needs in our community is food. Many families throughout the year go hungry. Each year we gather and distribute thousands of pounds of food to families in need.
  - b. **Backpack Blessings** Right before the school year, our church collects backpacks and school supplies which are then delivered to local children, often by some of Morning Star's motorcycle riders.
  - c. **Helping Hands** Handy people and non-handy people alike get together every second Saturday of the month in order to help those in need with service projects and light construction they cannot do themselves.
  - d. **Christmas Blessings** Each Christmas there are children who go through the holidays without the simple blessing of a gift. We want to share the gift of the love of Christ by giving gift and food cards to those who need a little extra help during the holiday..
  - e. **Come up with something** Use your SHAPE to come up with a unique ministry idea.