

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson Fourteen---Giftedness - Community within the Local Church- finding the place to serve

For thought: How would you answer someone who claimed to be a Christian but did not belong or go to a local church, and they did not see a need to do so??

Understanding the eternal significance of the Church is crucial. It is the Bride of Christ, for whom He died and now lives to intercede. It is worth our efforts, time to invest in and to serve tirelessly because we are serving the Lord Christ!

There are special privileges and benefits, along with duties and obligations, that we possess by virtue of being in the visible church. We enjoy union and communion with Christ and each other now in grace, and also in the future glory!

So how you view the church / how you view the authority of those in leadership will influence how you see Giftedness , and your role, here particularly as women, in the local body.

Here we function as gifted and called women under the male leadership in the church. This may require another study!

Complementarian

Egalitarianian

Pertinent Scriptures

Rom. 12:1-2 dedicated sacrificial service of worship

- 3 and ff verses - we are to exercise our gifts of grace
- according to the measure of faith given,
- Let us use our gifts in **LOVE** , v. 9-21

I Cor. 12:1-14 - things that impressed me at the big picture level

-not be uninformed about gifting

- read 12:4-7, great varieties, all by the same Spirit, for the common good
- V. 11, God's sovereign distributing
- Body one/ many reasonings
- V. 25-26, Point is that you (plural)are Christ's Body
- All nothing, useless without **LOVE**
- 14: 3,12, 26,40 what promotes edification and order is the point

Ephesians 4: 1-16

Preserving the unity of the Spirit in **LOVE**

- Christ gave the Church gifts to furnish them, as a manifestation of his victory and present reigning over all things
- Ps. 68:18 cited
- Victors distributed gifts, so Christ v. 11
- "The life of the church revolves around Christ. Our unity springs from our Union with God through Christ.Our abilities to serve flow from Christ's victory. He is the Head from whom all us members and our relationships in the body draw life. Therefore, we should pray for our church, that Christ will be central to its worship, and our fellowship." - from Joel Beeke
- Emphasis seems to be on growing, being equipped to function well, maturing, being stable , strong in the Body, following the Head, knowing Him and becoming like Him
- **I Peter 4:8-11**
- first mentions being fervent in **LOVE**; v. 8-9
- Whatever speaking or serving gift, use it as a good **steward**
- **So that God is glorified through Jesus Christ**

So finding where we fit is more about love, being a faithful steward, and being connected to other members of the Body and functioning well. Is the service of Christ worth investing in? Where are we investing?

Break for discussion groups:

Next week: Unless otherwise directed, next week our lesson will be on refocusing on the Gospel as a motivation and encouragement to practice evangelism.

Lesson Fourteen Discussion Questions

1. Based on the four specific passages that deal with spiritual gifts, even without identifying exactly what each gift is, and specifically what mine or yours is, what are some clear take aways ? Especially trying to shift from the needed foundational theory to the likewise needed practice!
2. Where do you now (or possible in the past) find your passion and pleasure in serving in the Body of Christ?
3. In getting our hands wet or our feet dirty (so to speak), we often have our service, i.e. our gifting, affirmed by others. Have you experienced this?How can this help us determine where we best can serve?
4. Other times, as we may try to serve we have the opposite occur. This calls for wisdom and humility and discernment! Maybe a more mature believer lovingly directs us differently than we may have thought we were going! Do you think this could be a helpful outgrowth of the kind of mentoring we have in Titus 2 model?
5. How are you currently serving in the church? How can you (we)do a better job of inviting in others to come alongside us, to help connect women better in the church so that we are gaining an ownership in being members one of another in Christ?
6. One sure thing is that ALL we have is a gift from God, so our personalities, our unique experiences, resources, talents, etc. are all and can all be stewarded for Christ. As we are faithful to use these and our spiritual gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, what is the outcome?