

Gifts, Calling, Ability

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I. Introduction and forecast.

- A. You as an individual are important to God.
- B. Because you are so important God has a specific purpose for you. Two dangers: believing that God can get along without you and believing that he can.
- C. There are clues to discovering your purpose and calling.

II. You are important to God.

- A. Christ pointed out that if a sparrow never hits the dust without God's knowledge, nothing happens to us without God's knowledge.
- B. God has given every person a name which is so intimate and personal that the only person who will know that name throughout eternity will be you and Christ Himself. (Revelation 2:17)

III. God has a purpose for you.

- A. The stars make music together which in our depraved state we cannot hear but will hear some day. (Job 38:7)
 - 1. God created every star different.
 - 2. The purpose was so that each could contribute to the symphony.
 - 3. Likewise, we are each individually different and will have different resurrection bodies. (1 Corinthians 15)
- B. Trying to be like someone else is dishonoring to God because we have not been created to be somebody else. (Ephesians 2:10)
- C. The soul is fearfully and wonderfully made. God "destroys the formula" every time He makes a certain person. (Psalm 139:14)

IV. Clues to discovering your purpose.

- A. What makes one person like one thing and another like another thing is the talents and gifts placed in each person. (Psalm 37:4-5)
- B. God has intended that every person use the gifts and abilities given to them and use them for His glory - then His objectives will be accomplished.
- C. God wants to use us in what we are good at. Everybody should be using the gifts and the talents that God has given Him for His glory.

D. The exception is that God will give certain people as shepherds for knowledge and understanding. Occasionally, God will reach down and ask someone to lay their gifts aside and focus entirely on people. (Jeremiah 3:15; 23:4)

1. This person is given a “shepherd’s heart.”
2. He or she must occupy himself with people.

E. There are certain things that we are better at than others. God distributes gifts so that there will be a balance of talents throughout the population. (Romans 11:29)

1. What are you successful at?
2. What endeavor has God given you that you enjoy?
3. These are clues to what God has called us to.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the speaker’s strategy for discovering your gifts.

2. Why were we given different gifts? How does this relate to our purpose in God’s plan?

3. What are your gifts? If you know them, how do you plan to most effectively employ them for the building up of the body of Christ? If not, what do you plan to do to discover them?
