

Community is our middle name

Discussion Questions for the week of October 14, 2018

BIG IDEA:

We spend too much of our lives trying to conform, trying to be like someone else. Too often we think that because we are different, something is wrong. We only have a complete body when all the different parts are joined together.

Trusting God's design, we need to embrace our differences and discover our unique role within the body of Christ.

ICE BREAKER:

If you could instantly change one thing about your appearance, what would you change?

DISCUSSION:

1. What was the cheesy line about conformity that the speaker repeated in this week's message?

"When parts conform, we become a worm"

2. What was the scripture that the speaker used for this week's message? Let's read it again together.

Corinthians 12:14-22

Let's read it again together. (Corinthians 12:14-22)

3. Can anyone recap the 3 main points of this week's message?

1. *God did not make a creative mistake when he made you*

2. *Nobody has it all together but together, we have it all*

3. *We need to know our part, accept our part, and do our part.*

4. Everyone can take a different point but what do those 3 things mean and how can we live that out?

5. How are uniformed and unified different? How can we be unified and not be uniformed?

6. When are times you want to conform? In light of what we're reading in 1 Corinthians 12- why does God not want us all to be the same?

7. If you could change something about yourself (not only appearance), what would you change?

8. How does it make you feel when someone says that God made you – just the way you are – for a purpose?

9. Do you know what you good at? What are your strengths? What do you have to offer others?

APPLICATION:

10. We are now going to spend some time letting each of you do a quick spiritual gifts survey. (Explain how the survey works. They should do each section "blind", meaning do not skip to the bottom to see what it's evaluating. REMIND everyone this is not a fool proof test or anything of the like. It's just supposed to help folks see a pattern or preference.)

Break for independent survey completion. Then come back together and before results...

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

11. Why do we have unique gifts? (Verse 7) ... If we were all the same could we help each other?

12. What is the ultimate purpose of the church, the body of Christ? What might be your specific part in accomplishing that purpose?

13. Besides serving the larger body how might your gifts serve each other here? (Now people can discuss results)

Survey of some spiritual gifts

Choose one of the following responses and place the number next to the statement. Then add up the 4 questions in each section and put the total next to the spiritual gift. After you have finished the test, circle the top scores to find your spiritual gift.

(1) Not me (2) Rarely like me (3) Sometime like me (4) Usually like me (5) That's ME every time!

-
- I have dreamed things that have come true.
 - I am open and honest with others.
 - I recognize God speaking to me in different ways.
 - Sometimes I see visions from God when I am praying for a person.

Section 1 Total= _____

- I love to work with my hands and help others out.
- I love to help others, even with things like dishes or mowing.
- I like to keep my room clean and organized.
- It's hard for me to say no when people ask for my help.

Section 2 Total= _____

- I love to learn new facts and study different themes on my own.
- I love to teach people about things they may have never heard about.
- It's easy for me to speak and express my thoughts clearly.
- I love explaining the whole story to people.

Section 3 Total = _____

- People say I am a very happy person and I love to talk.
- I like to tell people "good job".
- I have a very positive outlook on life.
- I notice what people can do well and I tell them.

Section 4 Total= _____

- Giving money or things to others make me feel very happy.
- I like to create interesting gifts to give to people.
- I like to plan ways to give to people in need.
- I am good at making money and I don't mind giving it away.

Section 5 Total= _____

- I get a lot of joy from accomplishing a task.
- I always want to be the best at everything I do.
- I enjoy telling others what to do.
- I love leading and organizing when I'm in a group.

Section 6 Total= _____

- I get super sad when bad things happen to people.
- I look for the good in people and ignore the bad parts about a person.
- I enjoy peace and try to avoid conflict.
- I love helping people know how to solve their problems.

Section 7 Total= _____

Hi Friends,

You have participated in a spiritual gifts *survey* today and based on a very rudimentary ruling of questions we are hoping to shed light on what might be some of your God given “talents” (Matthew 25). The top three highest scoring sections might be, for now, your Spiritual Gifts. This survey is based on the Romans 12:6-8 Scripture which demonstrates that we are all gifted and valuable parts of the church. Please remember that personality, how God wired you unique, and your spiritual maturity, and interests contribute heavily to how God will use you. Trust us, though, you do not have to wait until “adulthood” to participate in the church body.

Section 1: _____ : Prophecy- able to hear God and deliver a message to others.

Section 2: _____ : Serving- Loves to support a cause through helping others.

Section 3: _____ : Teaching- Desires to learn and teach others what they have learned.

Section 4 _____ : Encouraging- one who encourages and guides others towards the right path.

Section 5: _____ : Giving- you save and create in order to give to those who need.

Section 6: _____ : Leadership- you are able to see a goal and direct others towards that goal.

Section 7: _____ : Mercy- one who feels the compassionate heart of God towards others.

Romans 12: 4-6a “⁴For as in one body we have many members,^[e] and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”