

Illus: Couple of weeks ago on Wed night I was “helping” in the Kitchen: I actually love to cook...enjoy it...rewarding  
Went out to check on the guys at the grill...don’t need my help...but I stand around and chat...  
Grabbed a hot dog...they said...you should have a hamburger...Noooooo...My wife would kill me! NEVER KNOW!!!  
I had no sooner took a bite...I see this look on their faces...and I hear in the background... *“What are you doing!”*

Fell apart...we laughed til we cried...Told the guys then...THIS IS ONE OF THE BLESSINGS OF SERVING W OTHERS!  
Yes its hot; Yes its smokey; Yes it would be easier to sit at home in AC, To let someone else...But Not Trade it for anything

Continue our Series titled: “The Path” The Path of Discipleship:

*Worship Weekly, Gather in a Group, Serve On A Ministry Team, Give Generously, Share Near and Far*

Last week: Gathering in a Group. Today: Serving on a Ministry Team

Today I want to talk with you about Serving On A Ministry Team: Getting involved in Serving God and Others

1 Cor 12:4-27 Pg 813

### 1. SMT Helps You Find And Fulfill Your God Given Purpose In Life. 1Cor 12:4-6

Have you ever found yourself thinking...There MUST be more than this?

We all get there sometimes...when we have time to pause and reflect.

That place where we begin to think...and feel...and wonder...”Surely there must be more , *“Work, School, Bills, Vacation”*

There IS When you find the right place of service, here is what you will discover! FULFILLING You are Something made for!

- You are gifted by God! Different Gifts: Spiritually placed and empowered abilities  
You might not even know until you try! (Step out and see)  
Teaching: Not my “first foot!” Not until I was called to preach
- Find your “fit”: Different Ministries or Different Service:  
Not one size fits all: Usually by trial and error!  
Don’t know if teaching is Adults, Teens, Children, Preschoolers (Adult vs Ps Skill)
- Make Spiritual difference: Different energies: Different ways of making an impact for kingdom

Ecc1 3:11 *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men.”*

Applic: What are you doing that will make a difference for eternity?

Tomorrow VBS begins: I know..its a crazy, wonderful, taxing, amazing, draining week. Get to Friday..PLEASE OVER!

Occasionally, “Why do you do it?” Because VBS changed the trajectory of my life for ETERNITY

We don’t know who will be here. Some little boy or girl, family falling apart, no spiritual background, no knowledge

### 2. SMT Helps You Bless Others The Way God Intended. Vs 7-11

You and I were created to be a blessing to others. Sometimes we forget that in the rush of what WE need. We Shouldn’t  
When you step up and say, “Here I am God, use ME!” You put yourself in line with the life of Jesus! He did that every day

- He gave you the ability to make a difference: Vs 11: Each One (You might not know, never used it: There)  
There is no special class of Christians in Church: Everyone is gifted, empowered by God
- Manifestation of Spirit is given: Vs 7: Not YOU; its Him IN YOU: (I can’t; never thought u could)  
Not only does he GIFT you...He EMPOWERS YOU!  
My first REAL sermon: (Joshua following Moses: I’m so convicted...”I’m sorry!!!!”)  
God used that...with all my limitations...to change the character of that church!
- Common Good: Here is a key to let you know you are in the right zone. Who is being blessed?  
If your “spiritual gift” is only blessing you...probably not from God!  
Q: Is what I am doing BUILDING OTHERS, and CHURCH UP?

Mr 10:45 *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”*

Serving God and others is a great antidote to the self serving, self centered, self uplifting culture we live in.

Parents, you should make sure that your children and students SEE you investing your life in others.

### 3. SMT Makes You A Part Of Something Larger Than Yourself. Vs 12-27

One of the things we need to understand about Church...is that what we have here is more than just some human organization  
The church was visioned, designed and created by God to be ONE body made of up many different parts.

There are some things that we need to review, because it runs contrary to much of what we have been taught in our culture.

- The church is ONE body, not different parts: Vs 12: The body is a UNIT Lit = *“the body is ONE”*  
When God visioned church, and designed it...He created it as the sum of many different parts  
Illus: Paul here uses the illustration of the body: The body has many different parts...but it is just ONE body  
Because I have feet, and hands, and fingers and toes... I don’t have 4 bodies...or 20! I have ONE  
When you are a part of a church...You Matter!  
When you Say...God put ME here...the assumption is...God gifted you...and empowers you for the BODY!  
Illus: He didn’t just put you here for what you GET: You will find EXACTLY what you NEED here!  
He also has you here for what you GIVE! You bring something to the table...no one else does!

- **We are Integrally and intimately CONNECTED:** Vs 13: All baptized, all drink: "placed into, drink:"  
Literally, we have all been Spiritually united  
There is a spiritual connection much larger than just PRESENCE!  
The church is not a human ORGANIZATION: Much more than that!  
It is a living Spiritual ORGANISM: Hopefully we are organized...but that's not what makes us work  
That is one of the things that is missing in much of contemporary church:  
We think, and act, and teach, and belong and serve (or not) like Church is just another CLUB!  
Nothing further than the truth! We are the BODY of Christ...Created by God to further His Kingdom
- **You are spiritually significant whether you know it or not!** Vs:15 "if...I don't belong!" Don't cease being  
You see, if God spiritually unites you to a Church...then you are a part...whether you embrace it or not!  
You can make the choice of NOT fulfilling what God calls you to  
Or you can make the choice of NOT using the gifts God places in your hands  
Or you can make the choice of NOT letting the Spirit work through you...  
BUT...YOU ARE STILL A PART OF THE BODY!  
You matter...You make a difference...God put you here for a reason! Vs 26
- **What you do makes a difference...Either Positively or Negatively**  
~One part suffers...we all suffer                      One part hurts...we all hurt  
~One part rejoices...we all rejoice                      One part esteemed or honored

Illus: In our culture we seemingly don't understand this for the most part  
Here is reality.

- ~We are one...not many
- ~We matter...a LOT
- ~We make a difference
- ~We are spiritually connected
- ~WE are to be spiritually concerned for one another.

CONCL: Almost 50 years ago Johnnie Mae Duncun taught a group of about 8 or 10 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> graders VBS  
IF I close my eyes today I can still remember sitting in class, in basement, white frame church  
She asked the question that day..."Who is Jesus Christ, and why did He come?"

All that week we had been learning..."Jesus is the Son of God who came to die on Cross to pay the price for our sins"

- Snacks
- Recreation
- Crafts: Bird house
- Lesson:

God changed my life forever....and guess what...over past 30 or more years...Hundreds if not thousands of others  
All because someone taught a lesson...  
Her husband helped me make a bird house

Are YOU SERVING on a ministry team?

VBS? Food Pantry? City Serve? Kidz Central BYB Vital Link Mission Trip  
if Not...you are missing the very BEST of what God has for you...and what it means to be part of a church

Because as great as it is to come and be served...it is SO much better to serve...

You can't BUY the joy I had with the guys around the grill that day...

Can't be purchased...Only found when you are connected...serving...making a difference in others lives...and the kingdom

ke you can make with a group at RTBC...is NOT getting in a group!