



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 31 The Beauty and Burden of Belonging
By Pastor Jody May 01/11/2026

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 ESV

One Body with Many Members

¹²For 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. ¹³For 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.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷If 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? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The 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." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and 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, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."



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People – “Thanks be to God.”

Pray

Illustration

What does it take to have a championship team? The team needs to have a bunch of individuals who have sold out for the **mentality**, made famous by the 3 Musketeers, **All for One and One for All**.

UM safety, Jakobe Thomas – “*I did it for my team!*”

But in order to get guys that way, because that goes against human nature btw, it takes a good coach to instill that attitude among the team. A good coach must both know the game being played inside and out, but they also must know how to get the best out of their players. It starts with a coach that not only knows how to place blame but accept blame for the loses. My favorite coach in high school knew how to chew me out up one side and down the other, he also knew how to make me desire praise in the right way because he got me wanting to do better for everyone else, and that byproduct was he always got the best out of me. I believed in him because I believed He cared, and it was shown in his fire, his sweat, and his zealousness not just to see us win but to see us achieve unity.

I also learned over the years that it is good to **know your limitations**.

Becoming a part of a winning team means you must know what you are good at and what you are not, and you must also know the limitations of those around you. *I think that it goes without saying that to discover limitations is to push yourself to the point of failure, if you have never failed then you don't know your limitations.* Then when you get that, you work towards the encouragement of others towards what they are good at. That only comes by you committing to time with them, studying them, and valuing them. You can spend a lot of time yelling at people for when/where they fail and never see any improvement or you can spend that energy catching them where they do good and watch them work hard trying to do that again, again, and again.

How it feels when you get both... – Then when the team has been molded into not just a group of individuals but a collective of Hive mentality people who want to achieve a shared goal, that's when everyone gets interested in becoming better. That's when not just the coach but the whole team



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becomes encouragers for everyone else! That team becomes the one's others remember, that team has lasting ties long after the contest, and that team has created memories that will feed them in the years to come when they have some fun reliving some glory.

Now that sounds like fun, but the problem is, not everyone gets to experience that! Very few people on this planet know what that's like. That's why so many people watch professional sports and invest so much emotional energy in it, because they live vicariously through another group of people, but it is only a shadow of the real thing.

Introduction

But what if I told you that God's plan, His desire, His goal was to take every one of His people and make them a part of the biggest, brightest, and baddest team of all time!

1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

⁹But you are a **chosen** race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim the excellencies of him** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are **God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Family you and I are on that championship team already, I wonder did you know it, you ARE a chosen, royal, and holy people? We all have been chosen; that's the team, the church, or in Paul's metaphor today he uses the word **BODY**. We are brought together for a specific action (9), **proclaim the excellencies of Him**, that's the game, we are to spend our time, energy, and life's blood on this goal. You received not damnation, no you got **mercy**, NOT getting what you deserved so you can do something like proclaim Him, which is also not earned. This is to what end then we are to live, that when life is over, we have nothing left because we gave all we had towards that goal, to **make much of Him!**



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That's what we are going to learn today, that as the church we all have been placed on the championship team, I just don't know if you all realize that yet. So let me give you the summary of this passage today right upfront so you will remember what it is you are called to.

MP:

"One Head, One Body, Many Parts – ALL United, Valued, Devoted"

I know it sounds like a sales pitch, or an insurance company tag line, but this is actually the vision for the championship team that we all belong to! Let me also say, just because you don't feel like that's what you belong to, there's an answer to that as well. This team remember is based on whether you have abandoned self at the door and you have embraced the, *All for One and One for All*, mentality? Do you know your limitations, do you know the limitations of those around you, do you care for and spur on those you do life with? If not, then you are in a god spot for now you know what work must be done to become a participating part of this team. We are a part of one **body**, whose head is Christ, experiencing an unbroken **unity** in a value for a **shared savior**, and a **devotedness** to each other and our **goals** that can't be matched by this world. Let's discover now what is that Paul has for us to adhere to as a part of this team. (United in Spirit, Diversified by Design, Valued & Devoted)

1. United in the Spirit (how does He bring a bunch of individuals into a collective mentality)

Who is the uniter and what is the bonding agent?

a. Christ the Uniter

¹²For 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**.

God has made a unique group of people to do a quite unique thing that will be remembered for eternity. There will never be a group of people like the one you belong to that will get a chance to bring glory to the only being that Has ever deserved it. We will sing about it in the years to come, we will share



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stories with each other about our lives, and relive the days when God showed up and showed out (just read [Rev 19](#)). So, what we want to do family is create more memories for that future, build more moments in which to share, and open up ways in which our God shines bright! To do that let's bring attention to how God builds this special team.

V. 12 ends with this phrase, **"So it is with Christ"**, that means - how He has set it up to be. We are united because Jesus didn't want a people that was full of individuals, He wants many disciples, **"all the members of the body, though many, are one body"** - He wants them functioning as one unit. It's the task assigned to Him by the Father.

Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV

²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Christ is the CEO, the General Manager, and Head Coach all in one. During this current age the reaping has begun, He is separating wheat from tares ([Mat 13:24-30](#)), this is the way the team is built. God the Father has put the team under His management not just to be controlled but to be grown, **as a part of Him**. We are talking about His body, Jesus unites us in Him so that the body flourishes under His command, under His guidance, under His rule, to look like Him. Individualized Christianity, being self-centered, unconnected from others, seeking not to be known, **individualized**, doesn't exist, that is a false conception of Christianity, and that is farthest thing from who Christ was. Christ came for others, He came for sinners, He allowed Himself to be high and lifted up, so all His people would be drawn to Him. Those that are called, the elect, predestined by the Father ([Eph 1:1-14](#)), that is the body, and it is tied directly to one head and that head is Jesus.

You might not like how that feels, like it's a little controlling, but that is the reality of being a Christian.

Acts 20:28 ESV (Paul speaking to the Ephesian Elders)



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²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he **obtained** with his own **blood**.

The church, the body, was paid for in blood. Jesus has played for keeps. To be in His church means we don't just throw up a nonchalant, *thank you Jesus for saving me*, it is an understanding you don't belong to self anymore, you have been purchased, you cannot buy yourself back, you don't get a say in this matter. This team has permanence, this team has security, this team is held together by His will.

It is a pleasant thing to know that for a bunch of people in this room that if we really admit it, are on the selfish side and don't like to share. BUT our Lord Jesus has determined to combat that nastiness in us **by bringing us together against our will**. Jesus' Salvation for His people always comes with behavior change, if you are not challenged as a Christian to walk in humility towards others, to count them more significant than yourself ([Phil 2:3-4](#)) then friend you may be pursuing something else other than Christianity! Jesus is THE head, you are in the body, and the body is made up of many parts, and there is nothing individualistic about that. *All for one and one for all*, is something you better get accustomed to.

b. Spirit the Bonder (the bonding agent between us)

¹³ 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.

Now when you read the Bible, sometimes you will come across a new way of thinking about a familiar topic like Baptism. As a sign of our faith a believer is to be baptized, put under water [$\beta\alpha\pi\tau\acute{\iota}\zeta\omega$ (*baptizō*)] as a sign of being raised from a dead spiritual life to walk in a new eternal life, all done in Christ's name. It is the public act of an inward working, it is the first step of proclamation of the one that you are now proclaiming, in the name of the Triune God. BUT also notice the action doesn't just stop with a coming up out of the water.

When we baptize someone in this room, we don't just raise you up and dry you off, the Spirit, He who got you into this, now places you in the arms of this



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family. Being baptized, is a sign that God has made Greek and Jew the same, there is no differentiation between unclean Gentile and an externally clean Jew. The Spirit's Baptism is a sign of a spiritual washing and now all those who go through that ordeal are brought into one body, one family, one grouping, the church. Baptism is the sign that all have drank of the cup of the New Covenant, because Jesus drank the cup of God's Wrath down to the dregs.

You were made to do this, **you were made to drink**, again the Father elected, the Spirit called, and the meaning in the Greek is that Jesus is the one putting you through this process, He is baptizing you in the Spirit into the body. He makes the team, there's only one way in the team, and the way is guarded by the Spirit. Even when lost people mistake emotional manipulation and shaming for regeneration, the team will be kept pure by the Spirit, because only in the Spirit is someone recruited for the team, the body.

So, Christ is the uniter, and the Spirit is the Bonder, and that is the beginning of how God makes a bunch of selfish individuals into a group of people that actually start caring for each other. Family let's just do a Team Check here for a moment, how do you feel about knowing this Christian life, this spiritual journey, the end point is not about you, you were brought into a body for the purpose of the body? Have you accepted the fact that God, if He has indeed saved you, has made you part of a team that you cannot say 'NO' to?

If perhaps that is a little hard to grasp it may be because you don't like people that you can't comprehend, you can't control, you can't coral. Well, you're not alone in that, I don't either, but we can take solace in the fact that's how the coach wants it, for that's how the team functions the best.

2. Diversified by Design (this is where we start to learn limitations)

Develop a sense of what you can do.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an



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eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ 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?

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. It seems easy enough to comprehend but it is also so easy to forget. In Corinth based on their gifting it seems that the Corinthians were elevating themselves above others or perhaps congregating around those with the same gifting. This in turn was neglecting the body from the value of what others could do. We already have seen this in their selfishness with food where they would have dinner parties for the rich, not inviting others of the body to attend, making a mockery of the Lord's Supper. Unfortunately, diversity in the church is always challenged, not by man-made perceptions of social constructs like race and culture, but by simple things like selfishness and cliques.

To combat that when you look around the church the way God designs things is diversify the gifts among different groupings of people. He does this so that there is a good mixing in the body and people must go to other people, not like themselves, to get needs met. It is the perfect plan for balance; **give to those not like you forcing you around those not like you to get what you need**. This is why the mega-church mentality with all its' resources fails to meet the needs of its' people in daily ministry. People weren't meant to have a pay for play system to pay the corporate church to produce what they want when they want, that's westernized corporate capitalism. The church was to be a place where social connections happen pointing people to other people in the body to get what they need. (*I know a guy*). By understanding what you can do you know where and how to help the body, and knowing how much you can do you, you will then know when to ask for help. And if you never ask for help your fooling yourself.

Develop a sense to know what others can do.

¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.



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Unfortunately for many it takes a while to learn this lesson. Someone who is the hand; the doer, the fixer, the mender, the worker, a while to understand they are no better than the foot, the weight supporter, doctrine keeper, or financial big giver and that lack of appreciation goes both ways. Neither one can fully engage in their ministry that God has called them to without the other. The eye thinks that it is master of all it can survey, it's very good at discernment, studying, and judging based on perceived threats. But the eye is one dimensional without the ear. The eye is only as good as 90° but the ear informs the eye of the blind spot it can't see, the threats from behind, and where the murmuring lies in the body. Each part needs the other and now you can begin to see when hand, foot, eye, and ear work together they are starting to do some work, but there is still so much more to God's Diversified plan of the body.

All have a place to be in and all have a role to accomplish. Being a part of the body means you must study the body and begin to comprehend what others are good at, and what their limitations are. Remember encouragement for others, the best way to do it, is catch them where they are doing good and notice them for it! It means a lot to a member in here when they are appreciated. And it is helpful for the body when you understand the body enough to help direct social traffic so people can get in contact with the right people.

So, do you know what you are capable of doing yet? Have you thought about your limitations, and do you know enough people in this room to find those that complement you in your duties to the body? Do you understand others enough to help people navigate in the body to the ones that may be able to help them? These are things that are worthy of your contemplation today.

3. Valued & Devoted (Caring)

²¹The 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." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and 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, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not



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require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Here's a simple rule to keep in mind when dealing with people in the church,
No one goes without honor for all honor Christ....

There is no one in this body that should not be held up, valued, and devoted to more than anyone else. If all have a gift to give and all contribute as a part of the body, then all will be displayed for the glory of God. That is why it is important though that when one member of the body has fallen, it's not just the job of the Pastor to attend to them it takes the body to nurse that person back to health. The body is required for care, the body is required for discipline, the body is required for devotion.

Not only that but whatever that member is doing in the body, the Pastor cannot just take up that place, He already has a job. We have seen in Acts ([Acts 6:1-7](#)) why the Apostles instituted the office of deacons, it was so the ministry of the Word goes unhampered. It will take the body to cover when one of our folks is down. Like I know it is weird to think of ourselves this way; to think we contribute like this to the church, but it is wrong not to do so.

If one suffers, we all suffer, and when one is honored, we all rejoice in that. You all know what it's like to get a sick, or to have an injury, whatever is suffering on you keeps back the whole of you from functioning to your capacity. This is the church, this is the body, we all rely on each other. That is why when one achieves, when one does something to the glory of God, when a family member is converted, when the lost return home, we all rejoice for ALL have been working towards that goal!

That brings us full circle to what we started with from 1 Peter 2, we have been chosen, called, and set apart, to **proclaim the excellencies of Him!** When the body works we all benefit, when the body suffers we all care, when the body achieves we all win, and when the body is treated as Paul prescribes here, all that is left to do in response is Praise His name for only God can strengthen



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through Diversity and only Jesus can unite a people because only His Grace and devotion to us can get us to repent from our individualistic selves.

MP:

"One Head, One Body, Many Parts – ALL United, Valued, Devoted"

[CALL TO OBEY]

1) Commit to the One Body under the One Head

- Repent of individualism. Confess any "I don't need them/they don't need me" attitudes. - Plant your feet in the local body: prioritize the Lord's Day gathering, prayer meeting, and meaningful membership under elders. - Action this week: arrive early on Sunday, greet five people not in your circle, sit with someone new, and stay to pray with at least one person.

2) Practice Spirit-forged unity through concrete peacemaking and prayer

- Ask the Spirit to kill clique-ishness and comparison; refuse gossip and partiality. - Reconcile where needed: make the call, send the text, set the meeting. - Action this week: pray daily for three members by name (one older, one younger, one unlike you) and encourage each with a short note or message.

3) Discover and deploy your God-given part for the common good

- Take inventory: What do I do that consistently strengthens others? Where are my limits? - Ask two mature members what gifts they see in you; receive their counsel humbly. - Action this week: meet with an elder or deacon; take one defined service role (visit, meal, setup, childcare, mercy need, prayer team) and do it.

MP:

"One Body, Many Parts – United, Valued, Caring"

Family may we all seek to develop that very special *All for one and one for All* attitude, that makes being a part of the church so great! Let us work together for as long as we can bringing God much glory together increasing



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the amount of joy we have in this life and in the next when we all shall sing of His praises together in glory!

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. When the Lord was with us, He walked into a nightmare of a religious system; no one loved their neighbor as themselves and all sought to improve themselves by trying to live a life by the law. But our Lord, steadfast in Mercy and Grace, considered us, and lived that law for us, and made us His people. Uniting us in the proclamation of His name for the perfected work He did. Praise be to Him who modeled the perfect unity of the Triune God!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. We all have failed in loving God by how we have refused and fought being a part of His people and plans. We have used our gifting for our own good and we have all at times turned a blind eye to the needs in the body. But because of His sacrifice for us we have been given Mercy and His selflessness in life and death has set us apart to freely love each other with our special gifts. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand



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Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

LBCF 1689 Chapter 27 Of the Communion of the Saints, Paragraph 1, Fellowship Between Believers.

All saints who are united to Jesus Christ, who is their head, by his Spirit and by faith (although this does not mean they are one person with him) have fellowship in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory. 1 Since they are united to each other in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces 2 and are obligated to carry out these duties, both public and private. These duties should be done in an orderly way for the mutual benefit of the saints, both in the inward and outward aspects of their lives. 3

1. 1 John 1:3; John 1:16; Philippians 3:10; Romans 6:5-6; 2. Ephesians 4:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 3:21-23; 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14; Romans 1:12; 1 John 3:17-18; Galatians 6:10

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] “Build Your Kingdom Here”

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, who has plucked us from the hands of the enemy and has put us in the safekeeping of His beloved Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that unites us in the work of the Father, giving us much to say in ways of proclaiming His excellencies.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that makes the many parts, all of us, into one whole. Now go and give this good word to others and invite them into this special body.



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[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

- 1) Unity in Christ (vv. 12–13): In what ways do we let secondary identities (work, politics, preferences) overshadow our primary identity in Christ? What repentance and practices could re-center us on “one body, one Spirit” this week?
- 2) Inferiority Temptations (vv. 14–20): Where do you most feel tempted to say, “I don’t belong” or “I’m not needed”? What truth from the passage directly answers that lie, and what is one small step you can take to serve anyway?
- 3) Superiority Temptations (vv. 21–24): When are you tempted to think or act as if you “don’t need” certain believers? How can you actively show honor to those who seem weaker or less visible?
- 4) God’s Arrangement (v. 18): How does believing that God Himself arranged each member change your view of your role and of others’ roles in the church? Where might envy or discontent be lurking?
- 5) Gifts for the Common Good (1 Cor 12 context): What are your likely gifts or current opportunities (helps, mercy, encouragement, teaching, administration)? Where could you deploy them in the next 30 days?

How to mobilize for action:

- Honor the “weaker” and hidden parts as indispensable - Treat unseen servants with deliberate honor; redirect praise to them publicly. - Share burdens: if one suffers, we all mobilize; if one is honored, we all rejoice. - Action this week: provide one tangible act of care (meal, ride, childcare, bill help, home repair) for a member in need and write three thank-you notes to behind-the-scenes servants.
- Lead and live this in the home for the sake of the whole church - Heads of households: lead family worship; pray by name for church members



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and ministries. - Practice Lord's Day hospitality; fold the isolated into your table. - Action this week: invite one person/family unlike yours to your home; during family worship, read 1 Cor 12:12-26, pray for two members who suffer and give thanks for two who were honored.



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SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

DIRECTIONS

This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers. The Spiritual Gifts Survey consists of 80 statements. Some items reflect concrete actions, other items are descriptive traits, and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Your response choices are:

5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me

4—Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me

3—Frequently characteristic of me/true for me—about 50 percent of the time

2—Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25 percent of the time

1—Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me

_____ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.

_____ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.

_____ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.

_____ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.

_____ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.

_____ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when necessary.

_____ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.

_____ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.

_____ 9. I enjoy studying.

_____ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.

_____ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.

_____ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.

_____ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.

_____ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning how to help.

_____ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.

_____ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.

- _____ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.
- _____ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.
- _____ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- _____ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- _____ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.
- _____ 22. I have an acute awareness of other people's emotions, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- _____ 23. I am a cheerful giver.
- _____ 24. I spend time digging into facts.
- _____ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.
- _____ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- _____ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- _____ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- _____ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other countries.
- _____ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.
- _____ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- _____ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- _____ 33. I have the ability to teach to a variety of different learning styles.
- _____ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- _____ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- _____ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- _____ 37. I am drawn to people who are hurting.
- _____ 38. I am a generous giver.
- _____ 39. I am able to discover new truths in Scripture.
- _____ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.
- _____ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accordance with God's will.
- _____ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- _____ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- _____ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- _____ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.
- _____ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- _____ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.
- _____ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.
- _____ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.

- _____50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- _____51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.
- _____52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- _____53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.
- _____54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- _____55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- _____56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- _____57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- _____58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- _____59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- _____60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- _____61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- _____62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- _____63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.
- _____64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.
- _____65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- _____66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- _____67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- _____68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- _____69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- _____70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- _____71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- _____72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- _____73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation of the gospel.
- _____74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- _____75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- _____76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.
- _____77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- _____78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.
- _____79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- _____80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seem impossible.

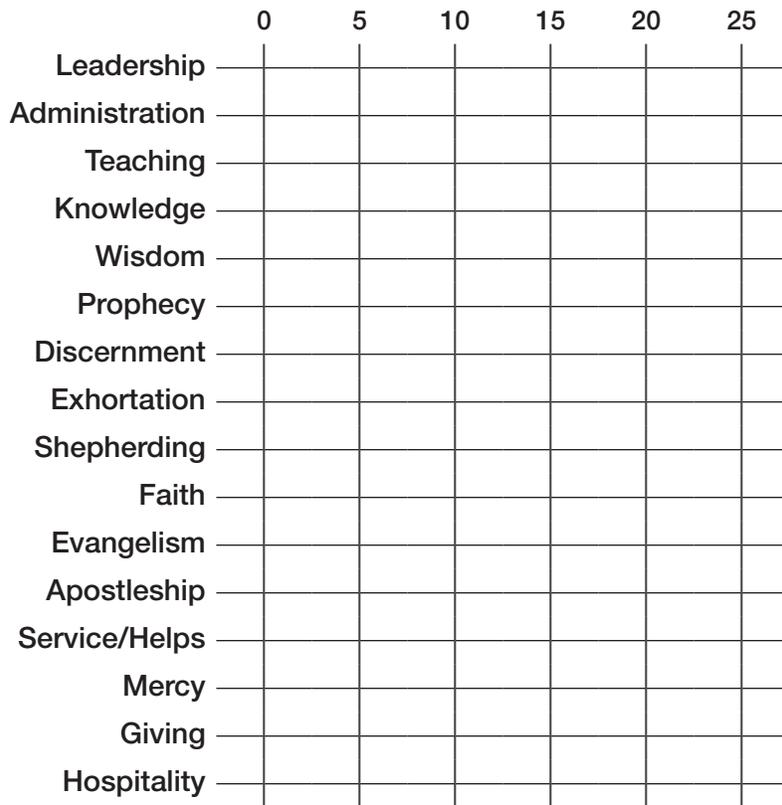
SCORING YOUR SURVEY

Follow these directions to figure your score for each spiritual gift.

1. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the box.
2. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

Leadership	<u> </u> Item 6	+	<u> </u> Item 16	+	<u> </u> Item 27	+	<u> </u> Item 43	+	<u> </u> Item 65	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Administration	<u> </u> Item 1	+	<u> </u> Item 17	+	<u> </u> Item 31	+	<u> </u> Item 47	+	<u> </u> Item 59	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Teaching	<u> </u> Item 2	+	<u> </u> Item 18	+	<u> </u> Item 33	+	<u> </u> Item 61	+	<u> </u> Item 73	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Knowledge	<u> </u> Item 9	+	<u> </u> Item 24	+	<u> </u> Item 39	+	<u> </u> Item 68	+	<u> </u> Item 79	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Wisdom	<u> </u> Item 3	+	<u> </u> Item 19	+	<u> </u> Item 48	+	<u> </u> Item 62	+	<u> </u> Item 74	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Prophecy	<u> </u> Item 10	+	<u> </u> Item 25	+	<u> </u> Item 40	+	<u> </u> Item 54	+	<u> </u> Item 69	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Discernment	<u> </u> Item 11	+	<u> </u> Item 26	+	<u> </u> Item 41	+	<u> </u> Item 55	+	<u> </u> Item 70	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Exhortation	<u> </u> Item 20	+	<u> </u> Item 34	+	<u> </u> Item 49	+	<u> </u> Item 63	+	<u> </u> Item 75	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Shepherding	<u> </u> Item 4	+	<u> </u> Item 21	+	<u> </u> Item 35	+	<u> </u> Item 50	+	<u> </u> Item 76	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Faith	<u> </u> Item 12	+	<u> </u> Item 28	+	<u> </u> Item 42	+	<u> </u> Item 56	+	<u> </u> Item 80	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Evangelism	<u> </u> Item 5	+	<u> </u> Item 36	+	<u> </u> Item 51	+	<u> </u> Item 64	+	<u> </u> Item 77	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Apostleship	<u> </u> Item 13	+	<u> </u> Item 29	+	<u> </u> Item 44	+	<u> </u> Item 57	+	<u> </u> Item 71	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Service/Helps	<u> </u> Item 14	+	<u> </u> Item 30	+	<u> </u> Item 46	+	<u> </u> Item 58	+	<u> </u> Item 72	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Mercy	<u> </u> Item 7	+	<u> </u> Item 22	+	<u> </u> Item 37	+	<u> </u> Item 52	+	<u> </u> Item 66	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Giving	<u> </u> Item 8	+	<u> </u> Item 23	+	<u> </u> Item 38	+	<u> </u> Item 53	+	<u> </u> Item 67	+	<u> </u> TOTAL
Hospitality	<u> </u> Item 15	+	<u> </u> Item 32	+	<u> </u> Item 45	+	<u> </u> Item 60	+	<u> </u> Item 78	+	<u> </u> TOTAL

GRAPHING YOUR PROFILE



1. For each gift place a mark across the line at the point that corresponds to your TOTAL for that gift.
2. For each gift shade the line to the left of the mark that you have drawn.
3. The resultant graph gives a picture of your gifts. Gifts for which the bars are long are the ones in which you appear to be strongest. Gifts for which the bars are very short are the ones in which you appear not to be strong.

Now that you have completed the survey, thoughtfully answer the following questions.

The gifts I have begun to discover in my life are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- After prayer and worship, I am beginning to sense that God wants me to use my spiritual gifts to serve Christ's body by _____.
- I am not sure yet how God wants me to use my gifts to serve others. But I am committed to prayer and worship, seeking wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts I have received from God.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.

UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF THE GIFTS

Ken Hemphill defines a spiritual gift as “an individual manifestation of grace from the Father that enables you to serve Him and thus play a vital role in His plan for the redemption of the world.”¹ Peter Wagner defines a spiritual gift as “a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God’s grace for use within the context of the Body.”² Gene Wilkes defines the gifts in these terms: A spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers which empowers them to serve the body of Christ, the church.

Lists of gifts can be found in Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:9-11. These lists are representative of the gifts and roles God has given to the church. A definition of these gifts follows.³

LEADERSHIP - Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals (Rom. 12:8).

ADMINISTRATION - Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task. Administration enables the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals (1 Cor. 12:28).

TEACHING - Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God’s Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

KNOWLEDGE - The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God’s Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth (1 Cor. 12:28).

WISDOM - Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body (1 Cor. 12:28).

PROPHECY - The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This builds up the body and leads to conviction of sin. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6).

DISCERNMENT - Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body (1 Cor. 12:10).

EXHORTATION - Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service.

EXHORTATION EXHIBITS itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry (Rom. 12:8).

SHEPHERDING - The gift of shepherding is manifested in people who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Eph. 4:11).

FAITH - Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

EVANGELISM - God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship (Eph. 4:11).

APOSTLESHIP - The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).

SERVICE/HELPS - Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

MERCY - Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church (Rom. 12:8).

GIVING - Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Rom. 12:8).

HOSPITALITY - Those with this gift make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They often use their home to entertain guests. Persons with this gift integrate new members into the body (1 Pet. 4:9).

God has gifted you with an expression of His Holy Spirit to support His vision and mission of the church. It is a worldwide vision to reach all people with the gospel of Christ. As a servant leader, God desires that you know how He has gifted you. This will lead you to where He would have you serve as part of His vision and mission for the church.

This article was adapted from Jesus on Leadership: Developing Servant Leaders, by Gene Wilkes (Lifeway Christian Resources 1998).

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1. Ken Hemphill, *Serving God: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts Workbook* (Dallas: The Sampson Company, 1995), 22.
 2. *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow* by C. Peter Wagner, Copyright © 1979, Regal Books, Ventura, CA 93003. Used by permission, 42.
 3. These definitions exclude the “sign gifts” because of some confusion that accompanies these gifts and because they are difficult to fit into ministries within a typical church’s ministry base.