



Lesson 8

Body Ministry

FAITH BUILDERS

God never intended for his people to have a *personal* relationship with him. When we look at the Bible, that is just not how God has designed things to be. God established the church, he established the public ministry. He commands his people to gather together for public worship and mutual encouragement. And so we see that God wants us to have a *communal* relationship with him, that is, that our relationship with him is to be practiced and expressed as part of a gathering of believers unless it is physically impossible to do so.

In this lesson we will explore the following questions:

What is our primary goal in ministry and life?

What does God say about us and our talents and abilities?

What attitudes are we to avoid concerning our talents and abilities?

What is to be the Christian attitude toward service?

What is the most important way we can serve God and others?

WHAT IS OUR PRIMARY GOAL IN MINISTRY AND LIFE?

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding question.

I Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all *for the glory of God.*

- 1) According to the italicized portion of this passage, what is our primary goal in ministry and life?

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT US AND OUR TALENTS AND ABILITIES?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Romans 12:4-5 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,⁵ so in Christ we who are many form *one body*, and each member belongs to all the others.

I Corinthians 12:27 Now you are *the body of Christ*, and each one of you is a part of it.

I Corinthians 12:1, 4-7 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.⁷ If it is serving, **let him serve**; if it is teaching, **let him teach**;⁸ if it is encouraging, **let him encourage**; if it is contributing to the needs of others, **let him give generously**; if it is leadership, **let him govern diligently**; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- 2) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what has God made us a part of?

- 3) According to the underlined portions of these passages, what does Paul say about us?

- 4) According to the double-underlined portions of these passages, where does Paul say our talents come from?

- 5) According to the bold portions of these passages, why did the Holy Spirit give us these gifts?

On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, **WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT US AND OUR TALENTS AND ABILITIES?**

- 6) What happens if certain parts of the human body cease to function or aren't functioning as they are designed to?

WHAT ATTITUDES ARE WE TO AVOID CONCERNING OUR TALENTS AND ABILITIES?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

I Corinthians 12:12-20 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "*Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,*" it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear

should say, “*Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,*” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be?²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

I Corinthians 12:21-26 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

- 7) **According to the italicized portions of these passages, what feeling is each body part expressing in this hypothetical example?**

- 8) **How does this apply to the body of Christ?**

- 9) **According to the underlined portions of these passages, what feeling is each body part expressing in this hypothetical example?**

- 10) **How does this apply to the body of Christ?**

- 11) **What is Paul’s point in the double-underlined verse?**

On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, WHAT ATTITUDES ARE WE TO AVOID CONCERNING OUR TALENTS AND ABILITIES?

WHAT IS TO BE THE CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SERVICE?

As is the case with every command God has for us, he's not just concerned about the right words and right actions. He's also concerned about the right heart. We all know well how to do the right things for the wrong reasons.

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Ephesians 6:5-8 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve *wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord*, not men, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another *in love*.

I Peter 4:9-10 Offer hospitality to one another *without grumbling*. ¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Luke 10:1,17 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ¹⁷The seventy-two returned *with joy* and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

12) According to the italicized portions of these passages, what is to be our attitude in serving others?

13) With the underlined portion of these passages, what helpful reminder does Jesus give us?

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WAY WE CAN SERVE GOD AND OTHERS?

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding question.

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and *preach the good news* to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

14) According to the italicized portion of this passage, what is the most important ministry (service) God has given to us?