

AT YOUR *Disposal*

Talent

March 10 | Karen West, Pastor Emeritus

What's the best use of our talents? It is to be an unparalleled success in whatever way the world tells us to be? It isn't. Because while contentment, in the truest sense of the word, is something God desires for us, the fact is it isn't found as we strive to advance ourselves for the sake of it, like the world would have us believe. Contentment is only found as we give our lives to Jesus, and allow Him to place us exactly where He wants us to be. The best use of our talents isn't for us to gather more for ourselves but to use them to love as Christ first loved us.



MESSAGE NOTES

Talent: A special natural ability or aptitude one is born with; a natural capacity for achievement or success from birth, in a specialized area. Your uniqueness, free of sin, is your talent given to you by God.

Spiritual Gift: A special divine empowerment bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit, to be used within the context of the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12

v. 1 - If you are following Jesus, then in addition to your talents, you have at least one spiritual gift, whether you know it or not.

v. 8-10, 28 – Every believer has at least one spiritual gift. Gifts are given for the common good.

Talent Attitude #1: “I can’t do anything!” This is a lie. In truth, you were created in Christ Jesus to do good works. You are masterpiece on the canvas of God’s creation.

v. 15-18 – Every part of the body is important. From God’s perspective, the things that are at risk of going unnoticed are no less important than the most stirring sermon, or the most incredible solo.

Talent Attitude #2: “I can do everything!” God’s mission is never dependent on any one of us alone. If we think it is, we can be sure we’ve gone off course.

v. 21-24 – We forget that we need the strengths of one another. We fail to recognize and celebrate how much we benefit from others who bring different strengths to the table than we do.

v. 27 - What the church has to live in order to BE the church, at all.

1 Corinthians 13

V. 31 – Love is the most excellent way.

The key to contentment in any season of life is found, not as we advance our careers in the hope of one day putting our feet up. It’s found as we allow God to teach us who He made us to be – what are our strengths, our talents, our giftings? – and ask Him how He’d like to redeploy us so we can use those strengths to serve Him, to make contributions towards His mission, in every stage and circumstance of life.

HOME GROUP MATERIALS

OPTION 1: SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 12 and ask these questions. It is a long text, so consider splitting up into sections. Give a lot of time to each one before moving to the next.

- What do you notice? Are there any patterns or repetitions? What questions do you have?
- What would it have meant to the original audience?
- What is the transferrable truth for us today?

Conversation starters:

- How do parts of the body relate to one another? Why do you think Paul used this metaphor?
- What are some present day examples of “less desirable” or “presentable” parts?
- Today, how do we value people differently? Who seems “better” and who seems to be “less”? How can we work to change these understandings?

OPTION 2: TALENTS AND GIFTS FOR THE KINGDOM

As a group, do a quick inventory of your talents and gifts. Do group members know the difference? What are some experiences with spiritual gifts?

What kinds of talents and gifts exist within the group? Which are less present?

Read 1 Corinthians 12 (yes, the whole thing!) and discuss the image of the body – how does it work, and why is it important for people to have different gifts? What are some of the ways this very image challenges our desire for self-improvement?



HOME GROUP MATERIALS

Spend some time reflecting on your gifts and talents.

1. What are your current goals and hoped for outcomes when it comes to your talents and gifts?
2. Is God challenging your thinking when it comes to your career, your priorities, your future, your retirement?
3. In what ways might you put yourself primarily at God's disposal instead of the world's - or even your own?
4. Is there a decision Jesus is asking you to make as He "redeploys" you?

Pray.



10 Year Disciple

This series aims to help us take forward steps in developing the following 10 Year Disciple characteristic:

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

→ Stewarding God's resources as entrusted.

Pick up a copy of The 10 Year Disciple Resource Guide from the Info Desk to learn more.

