

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, September 16, 2018

**Managing Your Talents
Week 2 in the series "Riding Herd"
A Study of 1 Corinthians 12**

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Think of all the practical things a unit of soldiers needs to accomplish its objective. Explain how neglect of one of the following areas could impact their ability to do their job:

- (1) Ordnance; (2) Food; (3) Communication; (4) Medical Services;
(5) Other: _____.

“Our mission is to give every man, woman and child in Austin repeated opportunities to see, hear and respond to the gospel.” List a few reasons why our church might think this mission is **unrealistic**.

In today’s lesson we’ll discover that our church has everything we’ll need to accomplish our mission.

The Presence of Spiritual Gifts

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, 18, 27 and Ephesians 4:7-8.

In those verses, what phrase informs us that every believer is gifted in some way?

Describe a time you put a lot of thought into giving someone a gift. Did you enjoy their reaction upon receiving the gift?

Do you think God takes joy in giving spiritual gifts to us?

What do you think God feels when we don’t appreciate or we don’t use the gifts he’s given us?

The Bible says that **some** are gifted in things like evangelism, mercy, giving, and prayer. And yet the Bible says that **all** are expected to participate in things like evangelism, mercy, giving, and prayer. This seems like a contradiction, so how would you help someone understand this reality?

What are some ways we can identify our spiritual gifts?

The Placement of Spiritual Gifts

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 and answer the following questions:

What is *different* and what is the *same*?

How does this section reveal God as “blessed trinity”?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12 and answer the following questions:

In the context, the reader expects Paul to end the verse with, “so it is with the church.” But how does he end the verse?

Do you think his view of the church as the body of Christ arose from his conversion experience? (Read Acts 9:1-4).

What does this imply about church involvement?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:15-21 and answer the following questions:

What do these verses reveal about our dependence on others to accomplish our church’s mission?

Go around the table and describe the value and the role that each member brings to your group and to the entire church.

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7 and answer the following questions:

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts according to this verse?

How can we be self-centered about spiritual gifts and fail to use our gifts for the common good?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28-30, and Romans 12:6-8 and answer the following questions:

Do you think these lists of spiritual gifts were meant to be *exhaustive* or *representative*?

Which gifts in these lists do you want more information about?

Certain Corinthians tended to make much of the spectacular gifts like speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Where do those gifts show up on the lists in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 and 28-30? What effect do you think it had on those Corinthian believers to see their prized gifts at this spot on the lists?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26. In what ways are the members of your Life Group suffering or enjoying honor this week? Begin your prayer list today with this question



Close with praise reports and prayer requests