

A photograph of a church sanctuary during a service. A man in a blue suit stands at a wooden podium on the right, addressing a large, diverse congregation seated in tiered pews. The sanctuary has a modern design with large, arched windows and warm lighting. The text "Ambassadors Sunday School Class" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Ambassadors Sunday School Class

- July 27, 2025
- “Service” for the believer is biblically defined, has mandated elements, must be a priority, and we must make a commitment to practice it.

KEY VERSES OVERVIEW

- Deuteronomy 10:12–13
 - Encourages serving God with all our heart and soul
 - Emphasizes the importance of following God's commandments
- Matthew 20:25-28
 - Gives Jesus as our example of serving others
- Galatians 5:13
 - Calls for freedom through Christ
 - Warns against using freedom for selfish desires
 - Promotes serving one another through love

SERVING AND HELPING

- Virtually synonymous terms
- Referenced in Romans 12:7 and 1 Corinthians 12:28



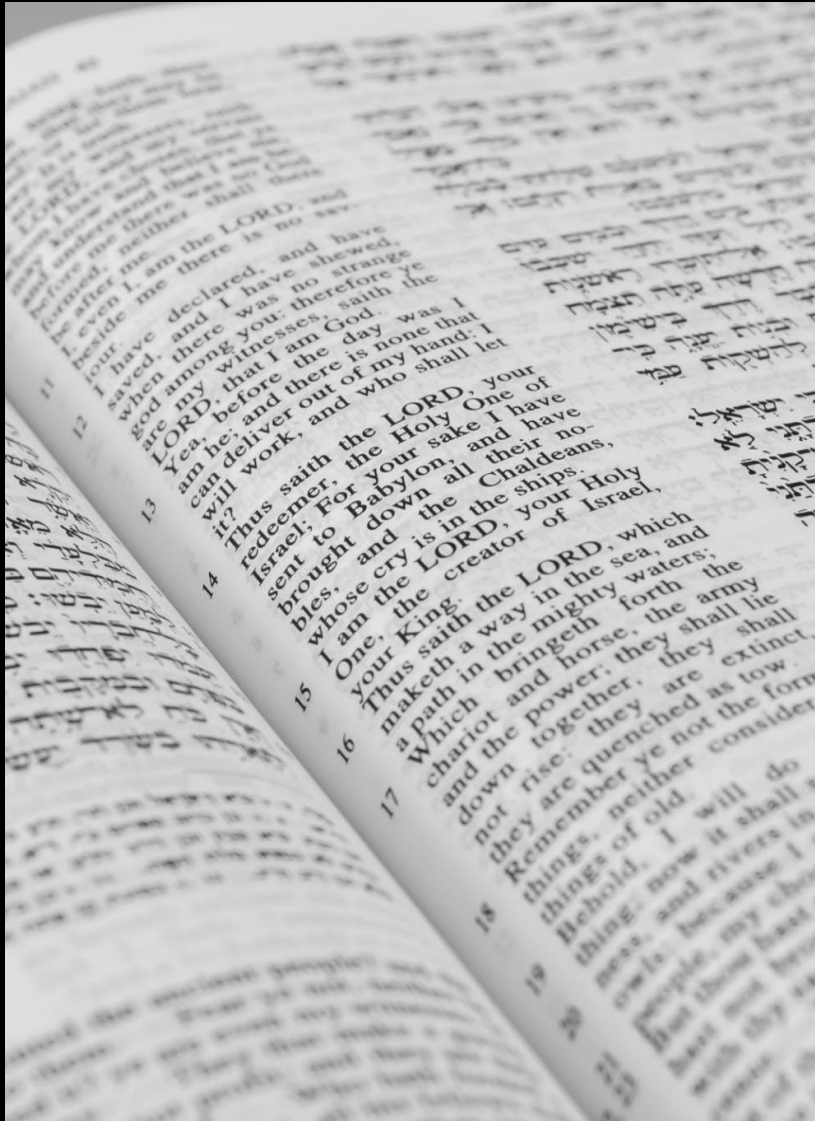
DEFINITION of SERVICE

The divine enablement to sacrificially and submissively
help meet the needs of other Christians.¹
(see Acts 6:3-4; Philippians 2:25-30)

¹John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 385.

A RESULT OF REGENERATION: LOVE AND SERVICE

- Love Originates from God 1 John 4:7
 - John writes that love is from God
 - Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God
- God's Nature is Love 1 John 4:8
 - God himself is love
 - It is his very nature
- Reflecting God's Nature 2 Peter 1:4
 - Those begotten of God share in his nature
 - They will serve and benefit others 1 John 3:16-18
- Manifestation of True Love 1 John 5:1
 - Those truly born again love the church
 - They are devoted to meeting the needs of their brothers and sisters in Christ



THINKING BIBLICALLY ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Romans: The Gospel Applied
 - Focus on Romans 12:1 – 15:13
 - Emphasis on the transforming power of grace
- Thinking Biblically About Spiritual Gifts
 - Importance of accurate understanding

GOSPEL RESPONSE TO GOD

ROMANS 12:1-2

- Living Sacrifices to God
 - Present your bodies as living and holy sacrifices
 - Acceptable to God as spiritual service of worship
- Transformation of the Mind
 - Do not conform to this world
 - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind
 - Prove the will of God, which is good, acceptable, and perfect
- The Right Response is a Total Commitment to God
 - Commit both body and soul to God
 - Response to the gospel demands complete dedication

GOSPEL RESPONSE TO SERVICE ROMANS 12:3-8

Paul begins now to explain the implications of the gospel in our lives with our service in the church to the body of Christ³

- Grace and Humility
 - Do not think more highly of oneself
 - Think with sound judgment
- Each is given a “measure” of faith
- Unity in Diversity
 - Many members in one body
 - Different functions for each member

³Tom Pennington, Sermon: *Romans Gifted to Serve (Part 1) Romans 12:3-8* (Countryside Bible Church, Southlake, Texas, 11/10/2019)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS THEME

- Spiritual Gifts vs. 6
 - Gifts that differ among individuals (grace given)
- Theme of the Paragraph
 - Spiritual gifts in the life of the church vss. 6b-8



DEFINITION OF *CHARISMATA*



Definition of *Charismata*

Greek
word for
gifts
Literally
means a
grace
gift



Context of *Charismata*

Given to
us in the
past
Verse 6a:
'since we
have
gifts'

GIFTS GIVEN BY CHRIST

- Grace Given by Christ to serve Him Eph 4:7
 - Each one of us receives grace
 - Grace is measured according to Christ's gift
- Christ's Gift Through the Spirit 1 Cor. 12:13
 - Gift given at salvation
 - All are immersed by the Spirit into one body
 - The body of Christ



LIVING SACRIFICE AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Living Sacrifice to God
 - Seeing your gift and service in the church as an expression of being a living sacrifice
- Ordinary Commitment
 - Total commitment to God is seen as ordinary, not radical or extraordinary
- Using Spiritual Gifts
 - Utilizing your spiritual gift in the life of the church

JESUS' COMMAND TO SERVE

- Jesus' Question to Peter in John 21:15-17
 - Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him
 - Peter responds affirmatively
- Jesus' Command to Peter
 - Jesus instructs Peter to shepherd His sheep
 - Jesus tells Peter to feed His lambs
- Expression of Love
 - Love for Jesus is shown by loving His people



SERVICE IN THE CHURCH

- Service is a grace given by God
- Measure of Faith vs. 3
 - God has allotted to each a measure of faith
- Manifestation of the Spirit
 - Each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit
 - Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:7



Gifted By Grace

GRACE AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Gifts differ by grace vs. 6
 - Each gift is unique
 - Grace determines the nature of the gift
- Spirit distributes gifts individually 1 Cor. 12:11
 - Each person receives a specific gift
 - Distribution is according to the Spirit's will



RECEIVING AND USING *CHARISMATA*

- Biblical Reference
 - 1 Peter 4:10
 - Encourages employing gifts in service
- *Charismata* - Spiritual Grace Gift
 - Each individual has received a unique gift
 - These gifts are meant for serving others
- Stewardship of God's Grace
 - Use gifts responsibly
 - Serve one another

NATURE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Definition of a Spiritual Gift
 - A unique capacity for service given by God
 - Not possessed before salvation
- Difference Between Spiritual Gifts and Natural Talents
 - Spiritual gifts are not natural talents
 - Gifts can be exercised through natural talents

IMPORTANCE OF USING SPIRITUAL GIFTS



- Command of Jesus Christ Himself through the Apostle
 - Essential for church context
- “for” vs. 3 connects use of gifts to vs. 1-2 “spiritual service of worship”
- Wholehearted Commitment to Serving His People
 - Serve in the church
 - Use the giftedness received

GRACE IN MINISTRY AND SERVICE

- Grace in Ministry
 - Verse 3: Through the grace given to me
 - Verse 6: According to the grace given to us
- Service as a Gift
 - Paul's perspective on ministry
 - Service as a gift of God's grace
- Reflection on Service
 - Do we see service as a duty?
 - Or as a grace gift we don't deserve?

CONCERN FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

- Grace Given to All Christians
vs. 3
 - Emphasis on the inclusivity
of the message
 - Directed to every single
Christian
- Emphatic in Greek
 - Special emphasis on 'all the
ones being among you'





COMMANDS OF THE PARAGRAPH

- Negative Command vs. 3
 - Not to think more highly of oneself
 - Don't think above or to think beyond
 - Tendency to not properly value gifts 1 Cor. 12:20
- Positive Command vs.3
 - Think sanely, soundly or rationally
 - Not thinking our gifts are unimportant and unhelpful 1 Cor. 12:14-15



CAPACITY TO SERVE

- Capacity to Serve in Church
 - Sovereign and gracious gift from God
 - God has allotted each a measure of faith vs. 3
- Expression of God's Grace
 - Spiritual gifts are given by God to you
 - Reflects God's grace towards individuals

MEANING OF MEASURE vs. 3

- Instrument for Measuring
 - Every believer has the same measure of saving faith
 - God measured out this standard to each believer
 - Probably not the meaning here
- Quantity Measured Out
 - Refers here to spiritual gifts
 - Different capacities given by God
 - Capabilities vary among individuals
 - Probably the meaning here





MOTIVATION TO SERVE

1 COR 12:18

- Our Role in the Body
 - Each person is a part of the body of Christ
 - We are placed in the body to fulfill a specific function by God
- Motivation to Fulfill Our Role
 - Understanding our placement should motivate us
 - We should strive to fill that role



UNITY AND DIVERSITY

- Unity in Christ's Body
 - All members belong to the same body vs. 4
 - Illustrated by the human body analogy vs. 4
- Diversity in Christ's Body
 - Each individual member has a different function vs. 4
 - Paul emphasizes both unity and diversity 1 Cor. 12:27
- Role of Members vs. 5
 - Serve other members
 - Recognize the importance of each member

TRUTH AND LOVE Eph 4:15



Truth and Love
in Church
Growth

Combining
truth with
love is
essential for
growth



Collective
Growth of the
Church

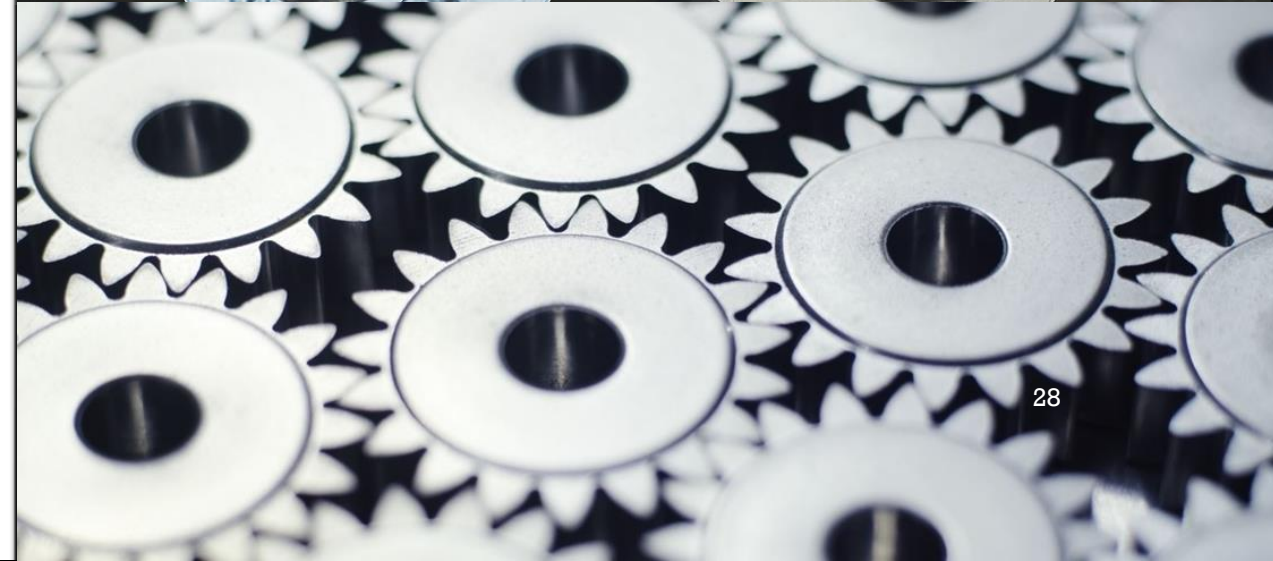
Focus on the
whole church,
not individuals
Growth in all
aspects into
Christ, the head

GROWTH THROUGH EVERY PART Eph. 4:16

- The Body of Christ
 - Every member is part of the whole body
- Fitting and Holding Together
 - Each joint supplies what is needed
- Proper Working of Each Part
 - Individual contributions are essential
- Growth of the Body
 - Building up in love

PROPER WORKING

- Importance of Individual Roles
 - Each person has a unique role in the body of Christ
 - Using your God-given gifts is essential
- God's Design for the Body
 - The body of Christ functions as God intended when everyone participates
 - Every part must work together harmoniously
- Result
 - Body built up in love



DO YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT?

- God's Grace Gifts
- Proper: what He has measured to us
 - Given to all Christians
 - Command is to use them in ministry
- Command is to Serve
 - Working: active, effectual operation
 - Focus is on serving, not just knowing
- Understanding Gifts Through Service
 - Many understand their gifts as they serve
 - Waiting to serve until you understand is disobedience

MINISTRY FAIR NEXT WEEK



- Ministry Fair Event in the Gym
 - Scheduled for next Sunday, 8/3
 - Showcases church ministries
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Learn about various ministries at CBC
 - Find ways to get involved
- Information and Assistance
 - Speak with church ministry representatives
 - Get answers to your questions

UPCOMING EVENTS

Two Weeks Topic - Fellowship

- Date: Sunday, 8/10

Brunch Gathering

- Date: Saturday, 8/16
- Location: Fellowship Hall
- Time: 10 AM - Noon