

CREATED - “Accordingly”

Romans 12:1–8

These questions are designed to be conversation starters. You don't need to answer them all.

PART 1 — WHAT HAS GOD GIVEN US?

Paul reminds us that God gives different gifts to different people. These gifts are unique to each of us, given by his grace alone, and are intended to be used in unity and humility to build up the church. The challenge is not simply to recognise what we are good at, but to actively use what God has given us for the purposes of building his kingdom.

DISCUSSION 1

- Where have you seen God use something that seemed to be a natural ability or characteristic and turn it into something that blesses and equips others?
- What are the things which might stop us from just getting on with exercising our gifts? How could we practically encourage and support others who are struggling to do this?
- What would it mean for people in our church to 'excel' in certain gifts? How would we go about creating the right environment for people to grow and flourish in their gifts?
- Are there particular gifts we want to see our church 'excel' in?

PART 2 — HOW CAN USING OUR GIFTS BE WORSHIP, OR EVEN A SACRIFICE?

Paul's plea to the church in Romans 12 is not only to exercise our gifts within the life of the church, but also to offer our *bodies* in worship as a living sacrifice. These themes work together in understanding how we are to live. Using our gifts is not just about our activity. It is about offering our whole selves to God.

DISCUSSION 2

- What might it look like for you to offer to God your whole self, including your body, in the way you exercise your gift?
- What might exercising your particular gifts actually cost you? What might you need to give up - time, comfort, convenience, control, recognition or something else?
- The illustration of what happened at the restaurant was a little extreme but how can it help us understand gifts within the local church and how we 'function' well as a body?
- Are there times when “being helpful” can actually prevent someone else's gift from being used? How might we recognise when we need to step in, and when we need to step back?