



*King's Grant Baptist Church
Connections Class*

Your Guide along the Journey

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Full teaching notes are available at: www.kingsgrantbaptist.com/download

The Keys to Being a Healthy and Happy Church Member

Discovering Church Membership

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 Key Truths
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 What Does it Mean to be a Christian?
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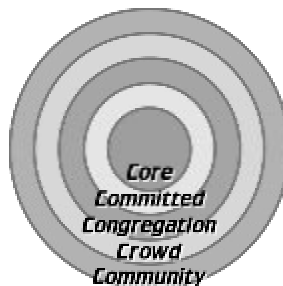
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Discovering Church Membership

The Basis for This Class:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's household, Ephesians 2:19 (Family)

Key Truths:

1. The church is **FAMILY**.
2. God's plan is that you are a **MEMBER** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is **AN ORPHAN**.

The Goal of this Class:

That I will commit myself to these two relationships:

To **CHRIST** (the Savior)

To the **CHURCH** (the Saints)

What Makes King's Grant a Family?

The four things that unite us:

1. The Church is an Organism:
 - a. Our Salvation – What God has done for us (who we are): Our Foundation
 - i. The meaning of being a Christian
 - ii. The meaning of baptism
 - iii. The meaning of the Lord's Supper
 - b. Our Statements – Why we exist as a church (what we do): Our Function
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 - i. The Nature of the Church
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 - i. What makes King's Grant so great?
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 - iii. What are the Circles of Commitment?
 - iv. What are the Four Member Commitments?
 - v. What are the reasons to be a member?
 - vi. How can I get involved?
 - vii. The Tithing Supplement
 - viii. Spiritual Gifts Descriptions

Our Salvation

What Does it Mean to be a Christian?

“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB)

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.
- Some look for happiness by gaining prestige & power.

But real happiness comes from understanding my **PURPOSE** in life.

Why am I Here?

1. God made me to **LOVES** me!

God says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love!” Jeremiah 31:3

“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...because of His love. God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God’s pleasure and purpose.” Ephesians 1:4-5 (GN)

2. We were created to **ENJOY** a personal relationship with God and to **MANAGE** all of the rest of God’s creation! **This makes us special!**

“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said, live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.” Genesis 1:27-28 (LB)

“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:17

Jesus said, “I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!” John 10:10

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives:

Clear Conscience

Romans 8:1

Life & Peace

Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness

Romans 8:26

Purpose

Romans 8:28

Confidence

Romans 8:31

Security

Romans 8:39

Power & Strength

Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment

Philippians 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32, 36

What's The Problem?

1. Man has a natural desire to be the BOSS and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for #1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

2. The Bible calls this attitude SIN.

"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." 1 John 1:8

3. Sin breaks our relationship with God, because it causes us to fear God and try to live our lives without him.

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal." Romans 3:23

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives: marriage, career, friendships, finances, etc.

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS,
THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.

"There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death." Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- “My mother was a Christian so...”
- “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”
- “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”
- “I’ll be religious and go to church.”

What’s The Solution?

Jesus Christ said, “I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!” John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.” 1 Timothy 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

What Does God Want Me To Do?

1. ADMIT that you are a sinner and that God has not been first place in your life; ask Him to forgive your sins.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.” 1 John 1:9

2. BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose from the dead, and is alive today.

“If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you *believe* in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

3. CONFESS that Jesus is Lord and he rose from the dead.

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

SIMPLY ACCEPT GOD’S FREE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON’T TRY TO EARN IT.

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. DECIDE to invite Jesus Christ into your life and be the director (“Lord”) of your life.

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:12-13

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” Revelation 3:20

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

“Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I’ve ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I’m sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian.”

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13

Connecting to KGBC – What is Your Story?

My Spiritual Story (read Acts 22:3-21 to see Paul’s personal story)

1. My life before spiritual transformation:

2. How I found God:

3. Wow, look at me now!

Life Verse

A life verse gives spiritual focus and direction.

Verses to consider: Galatians 2:20, Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 28:19-20, Philippians 4:13, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 12:1-2

What About Baptism?

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the **EXAMPLE** set by Jesus.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” Mark 1:9

2. Because Jesus **COMMANDED** it.

“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’” Matt. 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a **BELIEVER**.

“...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ’s **DEATH** and **RESURRECTION**.

“Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my **NEW LIFE** as a Christian.

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn’t make you a believer — it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring, it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because JESUS was baptized that way.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

2. Every baptism in the BIBLE was by immersion.

“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” Acts 8:38-39

3. The word ‘baptize’ means to DIP UNDER water. The Greek word *baptizo* means, “to immerse or dip under water.”

4. It best symbolizes a BURIAL and RESURRECTION!

The founders of denominations agree:

- **Martin Luther**...“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”
- **John Calvin**...“The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”
- **John Wesley**...“Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has BELIEVED in Christ.

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

At King’s Grant, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

With babies, we conduct a dedication ceremony. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. The purpose of baptism by immersion is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed!

“Those who believed... were baptized... that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are perfect, you’ll never feel good enough!

What About Communion?

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: Baptism and The Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What Is the Lord’s Supper?

1. It is a MEAL, also a simple act, it is nothing elaborate or fancy.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, *took bread* and broke it...” (1 Corinthians 11:23)

2. It is a MEMORIAL, to be done in remembrance of him.

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in *remembrance* of me.’” (1 Corinthians 11:24)

3. It is a MOVEMENT, from an old Passover symbol to the new symbol.

“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘*This cup* is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’” (1 Corinthians 11:25)

4. It is a MESSAGE, our statement of faith in Christ.

“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you *proclaim* the Lord’s death until He comes back.” (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already BELIEVERS (Mark 14:22-26). Jesus did not offer the Lord's Supper to the 5000 (who ate fish and bread) but to his closest followers.

“For anyone who eats and drinks *without recognizing* the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” (1 Corinthians 11:29). It is not for unbelievers.

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

We do this by...

1. Self-Examination

1 Corinthians 11:27

2. Confessing My Sins

1 John 1:9

3. Recommitment

Romans 12:1

4. Restoring Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24

When and How Often Should We Observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. Since it is a supper, it may seem more appropriate to observe it in the evening.

At King's Grant we reserve the first Sunday of each month for taking the Lord's Supper. We also have a ceremony during Holy Week, our annual Maundy Thursday service, the Thursday before Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

It's called what? Most scholars agree that the English word *Maundy* in that name for the day is derived through Middle English and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase “*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*” (“A new commandment I give to you, That you love one another; as I have loved you”), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John (13:34) by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet. At King's Grant, we don't wash feet on Maundy Thursday!

Our Statements

What is the Purpose of the Church?

A **Great Commitment** to the **Great Commandment** and the **Great Commission** will create a **Great Church!**

1. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- a. Love God with all your heart is **WORSHIP**
- b. Love your neighbor as yourself is **MINISTRY**

2. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- a. Go... and make disciples is **EVANGELISM**
- b. Teaching them to observe/obey is **DISCIPLESHIP**

The bottom line for the existence of King's Grant, in an easy to understand mission statement:

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

“And He appointed twelve, so that they would be *with Him* and that He could send them out to preach,” -- Mark 3:14 NASB

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—*the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*” -- Acts 20:24 NIV

Why do we exist? For these five reasons:

1. To CELEBRATE God's Presence:

The first priority of the church is to worship because worship is the number one priority in our lives. We were not created to have a great house, or job or family, but top have a relationship with God.

“Worship the Lord and serve him only.” (Matthew 4:10)

The Father seeks worshippers and his worshippers must worship Him in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23)

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 122:1)

2. To COMMUNICATE God's Word:

The definition of evangelism is sharing the good news.

...so that the manifold wisdom of God might now *be made known through the church* to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:10)

For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? (Romans 10:13-14) The point is that we cannot know about God is no one tells us.

1) God loves people: The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (2 Peter 3:9)

2) God commands us to reach out: So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. (Luke 14:23), and ...you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere... (Acts 1:8)

3) Growth is God's will: and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. (Colossians 2:19)

3. To CULTIVATE God's People:

This is the definition of discipleship: to help other believers to grow spiritually.

So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. (Hebrews 6:1)

Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (Ephesians 3:11-13)

4. To DEMONSTRATE God's Love:

Ministry is all about meeting the needs of others. Everyone has a hurt, or a struggle, no matter how well they seem to be put together on the outside.

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. (John 13:35)

5. To ASSIMILATE People into God's Family:

The heartbeat of any church involves small groups. We have a great Sunday School program at King's Grant; real assimilation (or connection) and accountability happens when people make their small group a priority. People need to get involved and meet needs within the congregation; we all have differing gifts and abilities:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27)

These two statements are trustworthy:

1. Every member is a minister.
2. Look for a place to serve before you look for a place to sit.

Our Lifestyle Statement of the Church (what we practice and how we live)

These are the things we put into practice because beliefs really don't matter a whole lot if we don't translate them into action.

B – BIBLE is our sole authority for faith and practice: When it comes to matters of faith and practice, the Bible is where we find our doctrine and teaching for life. Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15).

A – AUTONOMY of each local church: Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. We support each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. (Colossians 1:18).

P – PRIESTHOOD of the believer: The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading. No one wears special clothing, collar or robe; we all have equal access to God. No one stands between us and God anymore.

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! (Revelation 1:6)

T – TITHING, TEACHING, and TRAINING: Tithing simply means 10 percent; it’s the way we finance the ministry of the church. We teach you what the Bible says and then it is up to you and God. It is the responsibility of the membership to support the work of God through the church. Teaching and training are the backbone of corporate life. It is important for members to know how to live, work, study, play, raise children, you name it, from a biblical perspective.

I – IMMERSION: Baptism is a public declaration of your faith in Christ. It is the greatest picture of what happened in your life. Just as Christ was buried and raised to new life, our baptism tells that story and our own.

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)

S – SPIRIT-LED living, SANCTIFICATION: We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:18). As we live under the influence and direction of the Holy Spirit, we must reconnect every day, not in terms of salvation but in terms of dependence. There are situations and difficulties each day where we need to rely on God to get us through. Jesus sums up the Christian’s need for him:

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

T – TELLING others about Christ, TESTIMONY: It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact. We practice personal sharing about Christ

and inviting friends to church. God wants us to tell others about him. We need to be ready to give an answer to those who have no hope without Christ. If we are followers of Christ, we have a story to tell.

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. (1 Peter 3:15)

Our Doctrinal Statement of the Church (what we believe)

From the Constitution of King's Grant Baptist Church:
Ratified by vote on 1-29-06

We believe that there is one, and only one, true and living God. He subsists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, given by inspiration and are the only rule of faith and practice.

We believe that the Lord Jesus is the head of the Church, which is to be composed of all true disciples, and in Him is vested all power for its government.

We believe that the local church is a congregation of baptized believers voluntarily united for the purpose of worshipping God and promoting the cause of the Gospel.

We believe that the ordinances required of the Church are those of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The full constitution may be found online at: www.kingsgrantbaptist.com/download

Statement of Faith and Principles Adopted March 5, 2006

The King's Grant Baptist Church is a united, harmonious fellowship of compassionate, servant-oriented and mission-minded believers who strive to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

The Church is a prayerful body of believers working to be more evangelistic and open to change and transition in answering God's call to service. Each year a large number of the congregations are involved in local, state-wide and international missions.

The congregation supports its Church leadership and Church ministry initiatives. In connection with governance and administration, the congregation nominates and elects its committees, then respects and supports their efforts, resolving issues in a spirit of Christian harmony.

The Church welcomes men and women in leadership roles including Deacon and Staff positions.

The Church is ecumenical, cooperating with other churches to serve the community. The Church supports the traditional Baptist principles of-

- Religious liberty: [edit] We stand for a free church in a free state. Neither one should control the affairs of the other. We support the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, with its "establishment" and "free exercise" clauses.
- Autonomy of the local church: [edit] We affirm the autonomy of the local church. Each church is free to determine its own membership and to set its own course under the headship of Jesus. It may enter into alliance with other churches as it chooses, so long as those other churches are willing.
- The priesthood of the believer: [edit] We affirm the priesthood of all believers. Laypersons have the same right as ordained ministers to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ's name.
- Soul competency: [edit] We affirm soul competency, the accountability of each person before God. Family cannot save you, neither can the church. It comes down to you and God. Authorities can't force belief or unbelief.

Believing the Bible to be the sole authority for faith and practice, the Church rejects any attempts by external organizations to establish and enforce creedal statements for local churches or for missionaries.

The Church endorses the **Baptist Faith and Message of 1963** as a non-creedal confession of faith in our religious and denominational life.

Our Beliefs in Relation to Other People

In essential beliefs — we have unity.

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...” Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs — we have liberty.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs — we show love.

“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” 1 Corinthians 13:2 (Phillips)

The Theological Beliefs of the Church (evangelical Christianity)

About God: God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

About Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13).

About the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved, to be used in service to others. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)

About the Bible: The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth and can be fully trusted. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

About Human Beings: People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are flawed by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in this life and the afterlife. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2)

About Salvation: Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

About Eternal Security: Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation forever. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot lose salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. (John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

About Eternity: People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9)

Our Structure

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

The Nature of the Church Determines its Structure

1. The church is a FELLOWSHIP.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” Acts 2:42 (Phillips)

A top priority in a fellowship is **HARMONY** and **UNITY**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” Romans 14:19 (Phillips)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin: Colossians 3:15, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Timothy 2:14, Proverbs 17:14, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3, Colossians 2:2, Philippians 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Timothy 2:23, Romans 15:5-6, Romans 12:16-18, Colossians 3:13-14, Ps. 133:1

Implication: A good structure promotes unity and downplays **DIVISION**.

2. The church is a FAMILY.

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” 1 Peter 3:8 (LB) Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

So we operate on the basis of **RELATIONSHIPS** not **RULES**. Families don't operate with a policy book or rulebook. People in families make mistakes, so how will we treat them?

“Don't reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters...” 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (Phillips)

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God's church?” 1 Timothy 3:4-5

3. The church is a BODY.

“All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

“For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.” Ephesians 5:23

“God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.” Ephesians 1:22-23

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.” Colossians 1:18

“And they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.” Colossians 2:19

Therefore, we function on the basis of **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” Romans 12:4-6

Whatever you’re good at, you can just about do it in the church for the kingdom of God; nobody waits to get elected. If you’re good at singing, join the music ministry. If you’re good with children, join the children’s ministry. If you’re good at organizing, you ought to organize things in the church. If you are good at leadership or administration, you ought to get involved in leading others. If you’re good with numbers, there are financial teams in the church. If you’re good with young people, you need to get involved in the student ministry.

Don’t wait to be elected or invited. Did you elect to have a hand? Nope. Your hand is there because it can do things that other body parts cannot. Membership is a commitment to one another.

“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Ephesians 4:11-12

What is the organizational chart for this Ephesian church? Do pastors and teachers do the ministry? Nope, the people do the ministry, and the staff prepares people to do the ministry.

The people are the **“MINISTERS”**

The pastors are the **“ADMINISTERS”**

Does your staff sit around thinking these ministries up? Nope, these ministries take off because the people are using their gifts and abilities to serve the body of Christ and the kingdom of God. Decisions are made by the people involved in those ministries. There is no board trying to control all the activities of the church. The staff wants to free the people for the work of ministry. As administrators, we need to coordinate the efforts and equip the people to succeed, and keep the church heading toward our biblical mission, fulfilling the purposes of the church, our standards, vision, and maintaining sound doctrine.

4. The church is a FLOCK.

This was Jesus' favorite description of the church: John 10:1-30, Matthew 26:31, 25:33

Over 58 times in the New Testament the phrase appears "one another." Love one another, greet one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, counsel one another...

The staff cannot meet everyone's needs, so it is vital that the ministers minister to each other. If the church is staff built, when there is a death, a moral failure or a resignation, the ministry collapses. We cannot build a church on a single personality. The church spread the ministry all around.

If people are here because of the pastor, they are likely on the fringe, and not members.

Since the church is a flock, it is cared for and led by **SHEPHERDS**.

"Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Do you really love me?' 'Yes Lord,' said Peter. 'Then take care of my sheep.'" John 21:16-17 (*Poimen*, "take care" is the word "pastor").

"To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God's flock, serving as overseers..." 1 Peter 5:1-2 (*presbuteros*, meaning elder).

"Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God..." Acts 20:17-18, 28 (*episcopos*, is the word for overseer or bishop, or manger).

Pastors, overseers and elders... all the same function. Who do you know that you would consider a pastor or shepherd of people in the congregation? Could it be small group leaders, Sunday School teachers, mature believers you meet in the hallway?

The Affiliations of the Church

The church voluntarily supports and enters into partnership associations with:

Locally:

The Norfolk Area Baptist Association (NABA)
Little Neck Area Churches – Community services and events
The Union Mission and Judeo Christian Outreach Center

Statewide:

The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) or the Virginia Baptist Mission Board
The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia (CBFV)

National and International:

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF)
The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)
The Baptist World Alliance (BWA)

The Church gives cooperatively to the CBF, SBC and others providing each of its members the option of designating contributions and directing mission dollars solely to the Church or to the BGAV and SBC or BGAV and CBF or otherwise.

Traditional Missions Offerings

Lottie Moon (IMB) – traditionally a Christmas offering for International missionary support
Annie Armstrong (NAMB) – traditionally an Easter offering for domestic missionary support
Alma Hunt – an offering to support Baptist Mission efforts in Virginia and beyond
Global Missions (CBF) – an alternative to the SBC and IMB channels

Advantages of Working with a Denomination

Since its organization in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has grown to sponsor about 5,000 home missionaries serving the United States, Canada, Guam and the Caribbean, as well as sponsoring more than 5,000 foreign missionaries in 153 nations of the world.

Being a part of a denomination allows us to identify with other Christians and churches around the world who are known for the commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC holds to no man-made creed. The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.

There is strength in numbers, doing more together than we could ever do alone. One out of ten churches in America is affiliated with the SBC, (42,000 churches with 16.6 million members; Over 1200 Associations; 41 state conventions covering all 50 states and territories of the USA).

Southern Baptists share a common bond of basic biblical beliefs and a commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

Our Strategy

The Great Commission instructs us to go and make disciples, which is the central command in the sentence. Discipleship is the process of growing people into the followers of Christ they are intended to become.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish (or go to another parish), But happy is he who keeps the law.” Proverbs 29:18

“Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:22

The Discipleship Ministry at King’s Grant exists to help move people toward higher levels of commitment to Christ (the Savior) and His Church (the saints).

The best way to reach out to others is not in a mass mailing or the website; but rather person to person, reaching the people with whom we have something in common:

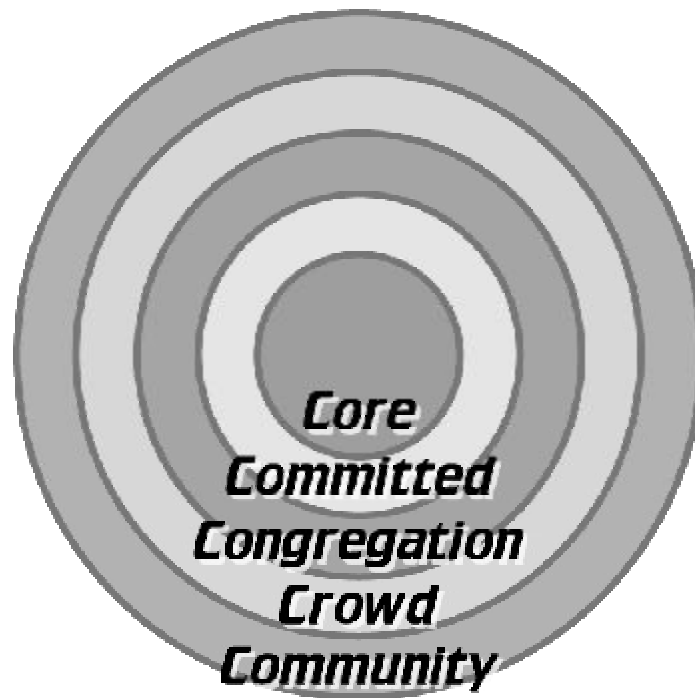
Same workplace	Same school	Same neighborhood
Same club or organization	Same hobbies	

The church may provide activities that cater to the needs of people but it is relationship development that will help them move them to higher levels of commitment to Christ and His church.

What Makes Membership at King's Grant so Great?

1. Guest-Friendly, Non-Threatening Services (1 Corinthians 9:22-23): Lost people can feel this is a place to belong even before they come to believe. We don't embarrass people or point them out.
2. Small Groups (Acts 5:42): We offer opportunities to develop personal faith within a smaller community of faith. It is one thing to worship as an entire congregation, but real personal spiritual growth happens in the context of small groups. Many groups meet according to affinity or topics of interest.
3. Purpose Driven (Matthew 22:36-40, 28:19-20): This means that we intend to get involved in activities that fit that defined mission of the church, *Knowing Christ and Making Him Known*. Everything must fit into this mission or it is evaluated.
4. Target Defined (Colossians 4:5): While we are a place where all people, from various backgrounds and traditions, may feel comfortable and welcome here, we desire to reach lost people.
5. Life Development (Ephesians 4:13-15): We have a process that will help you to grow toward spiritual maturity, develop your talents and giftedness, and be successful in life. Our goal is to make you successful in your Christian life so that one day you will stand before God and he will say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant." We want to help you become what God wants you to become.
6. Members are Ministers (Romans 12:5-8): Not every member is a pastor, but every member has a ministry. Ministry is simply serving others.
7. Transformational Preaching (James 1:22): The Bible challenges us to be "doers of the Word, not merely hearers." When you hear a sermon, you should not wonder what you should do with it. Preaching is not just to get a theological education, but to be lived out. Our goal is to change your life, change your behavior and help you to become like Christ. King's Grant is about life transformation.
8. Servant Leadership (Hebrews 13:7): We believe that the model for leadership is found in the Bible, people lead by serving; leaders are authentic leaders in that they must lead by example.
9. Climate of Acceptance (Romans 15:7): The Bible commands that we accept one another in order to bring praise or glory to God. We are all sinners saved by God's grace and no one is judged. Remember, this is a place to belong, even before it is a place to believe.
10. Simple Structure: Many churches desire to be all things to all people, but it is to our advantage to recognize what we do well, and do it, rather than become mediocre is too many activities.

Five Circles of Commitment



- **The Community** – people who inhabit this city, which have no idea we even exist.
- **The Crowd** – people who for some reason or another have visited our church, expressing interest and even have come to one of our events.
- **The Congregation** – people who are actually attending our church fairly regularly; including nominal church members.
- **The Committed** – people who are members of our church and active in its programs.
- **The Core** – people who are actively involved in leadership and ministry of the church.

How Can We Do This?

Four Church Member Commitments

The goal of the church is to move people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Another way to view this is the baseball diamond. Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

The MEMBERSHIP Commitment:

- “You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household” Ephesians 2:19
- “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:4-5

The MATURITY Commitment:

- “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18
- “Train yourself to be godly.” 1 Timothy 4:7

The MINISTRY Commitment:

- “Faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10
- “There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.” 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27

The MISSIONS Commitment:

- “You will be my witnesses...” Acts 1:8
- “Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15



We become what we are committed to.

Reasons for Church Membership

The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word: Commitment

We recognize the need for a formal membership and ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

A BIBLICAL Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

"... Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it." Ephesians 5:25

A CULTURAL Reason: Membership is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything ... a job ... a marriage ... our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of "church shoppers & hoppers."

Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion." It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

A PRACTICAL Reason: Membership better defines who we are.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

A PERSONAL Reason: Membership produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

Becoming a Member of KGBC - How Do I Get Involved?

1. Become a MEMBER.

1. Salvation,
2. Baptism by immersion,
3. Statement of faith (having been baptized by immersion),
4. Letter from another Baptist church.
5. Practical process:
 - a. Complete application form,
 - b. Present yourself to the church at the end of a worship service.
6. Explain the giving card – 10% missions

2. Fulfill your life PURPOSE.

1. A believer's ultimate purpose is to Glorify God.
 - a. John 17:4 - *I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*
 - b. Matthew 5:16 - *In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*
 - c. 1 Corinthians 6:20 - *for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*
2. Discover and practice the five ways to glorify God – Acts 2:42-47.
 - a. **WORSHIP** – Mark 12:30 - *And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.*
 - b. **FELLOWSHIP** – Hebrews 10:24-25 - *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*
 - c. **MATURITY** – Ephesians 4:13, 15 - *This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ... Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.*
 - d. **SERVICE** – Mark 10:45 - *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
 - e. **WITNESS** – Acts 1:8 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

3. Love GOD and Serve OTHERS!

1. Faithfully participate in worship services.
2. Get involved in a small group.
3. Participate in regular church activities:
4. Volunteer to help: (See the opportunities for service page)
5. Get involved with special events: fellowship events and small groups

What Are the Opportunities to Get Connected?

1. Sunday School (9:45):
 - a. Greeter / Welcome Team (Welcome Center or Preschool Area)
 - b. Nursery Helper (birth thru 2 years old)
 - c. Preschool Teacher/Helper (2 years old thru kindergarten)
 - d. Children's Teacher/Helper (Grades 1-6)
 - e. Youth Ministry (Teaching, Building Relationships, Life Investment)
 - f. Adult Sunday School (various ages and classes)
2. Women's Ministry:
 - a. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study – 9:30 am or 7:00 pm (Janice Barber 757-427-9426)
 - b. Wednesday Senior Ladies' Study – 10:00 am (Mary Anne Simmons 757-340-7560)
3. Men's Ministry: Men of Steel (Scott Chafee 757-340-0902)
 - a. Annual Iron Sharpens Iron Conference – March 31 (Scott Chafee 757-340-0902)
 - b. Men at the Cross Conference, March 3 (Scott Chafee 757-340-0902)
4. Wednesday Evening:
 - a. Family Meal – 5:15 during the Discipleship Semester
 - b. Discipleship Opportunities – as Student or Teacher (Scott Chafee 757-340-0902)
 - c. Children's Choirs (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
 - d. Children's Ministry (Katie Goodmurphy 757-961-5737)
 - e. Student Discipleship in the Attic (Beth and Ryan Anderson 757-340-0902)
5. Music Ministry:
 - a. Adult Choir (8:30 and 11:00 Sunday Services - practice at 7:30 on Wednesdays)
 - b. Wednesday Children's Choirs (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
 - c. Fine Arts Camp – August 6-9, 2012 (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
 - d. Fine Arts Week for Adults – May 14-17, 2012 (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
6. Technical/Service Ministry:
 - a. PowerPoint Operator (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
 - b. Slide Creator (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902 or Scott Chafee 757-340-0902)
 - c. Sound Board Operator (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
 - d. Sound or A/V at the Well (Scott Chafee 757-340-0902)
 - e. Drama Team (Dan Cooper 757-340-0902)
7. Service Ministry:
 - a. Welcoming Team Greeter (Welcome Center or Preschool Area)
 - b. Usher / Greeter During Services
 - c. Building and Grounds (minor repair or maintenance)
 - d. Kitchen and Social Ministry (church wide fellowship, etc.)
 - e. Community Blood Drives
 - f. Church Library Ministry
 - g. Church Ordinance Helping Ministry
8. Missions and Ministry:
 - a. Winter Shelter – January 25 – February 1, 2012
 - b. Vacation Bible School – June 25 – 29, 2012
 - c. Operation Inasmuch – October 20, 2012

Get involved: see the full list: www.kingsgrantbaptist.com/volunteer

The Biblical View of Stewardship

Three major non-Christian views that have challenged the biblical position on stewardship:

1) Material things are evil - Gnosticism

James Leo Garret pointed out "In Gnostic religion and thought, man can in no sense be steward of material things, for his salvation consists of separation from his physical body and the whole of the universe." Although Christian theology has denounced this heresy, Gnostic influences appear in Christian conversation. For a Christian to boast, "We don't talk about money in our church," reflects a feeling more Gnostic than Christian. For a member to complain, "I'll be glad when the pastor stops preaching about money and starts preaching the Bible," reveals both a lack of Bible knowledge and a dangerous attachment to Gnosticism.

2) Material things have no value - Eastern Mysticism

This is the conclusion of Hindu and Buddhist teaching that is the foundation for what is called the New Age Movement. The Hindu refers to the material world as "Maya" which means a worthless illusion." The Buddhist would not hold that the material world is unreal, but neither would he ascribe any value to it. His goal is to relieve himself of any desire for material things thus reaching a level of inner peace and nothingness called nirvana.

3) Material things are the only reality - Western Thought

Western man places great importance on material possessions. Historically, this concept has its roots in the Jewish and Christian affirmation of the divine creation of a good world. It began with this biblical idea but it gradually eroded into something little resembling the plan of God.

The Christian View of Material Things

- 1) The purpose of material is found in Christ (Colossians 1:15-17): it was created by Christ, for Christ, and held together by Christ.
- 2) The Christian view places value upon the material (Genesis 1:31): The world spoken into existence by God, declared "very good" by God, and to be used as an expression of our faith.
- 3) The Christian view calls for things to be received with thanksgiving: "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude." (1 Timothy 4:4)
- 4) The Christian view recognizes that man is responsible for managing the material world as in Matthew 25:14-30 (the parable of the talents)

The Biblical View of Ownership

1) The Christian recognizes God's ownership: "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains" (Psalm 24:1), "The Lord gives the power to make wealth." (Deuteronomy 8:18).

2) The Christian understands the temporary nature of ownership (1 Corinthians 3:10-15): We build upon a foundation, which is Christ Jesus (10-11), Each man's work will be evident: precious things or straw? (13), Will we receive reward, or will it be burned up? (14-15)

3) The Christian accepts ownership as a means of service: Ownership is a privilege and a responsibility. The New Testament does not say that all men will enjoy this privilege, as some will preach today. Instead, it asserts that the poor will always be present (Mark 14:7). When a Christian knows the privilege of ownership, he sees it as an opportunity for service. The Old Testament prophets voiced a strong concern over selfish ownership that ignores the needs of others.

- Micah 2:2 - selfishness of the rich in oppressing the poor
- Jeremiah 5:26-28 - the rich not helping those in need
- Amos 8:6 - those who buy the poor for a pair of shoes

The Christian Meaning of Giving (Acts 20:35)

1) All creation is built on giving: "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's shall save it." (Mark 8:35)

2) God is the supreme Giver: "For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

3) Christ is the supreme Gift:

- "God so loved the world that he gave" (John 3:16)
- "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 John 3:16)

Jesus Teaches About Christian Giving

1) Jesus commends greatness in giving:

- The widow praised for her generosity (Mark 12:41-44)
- The good Samaritan praised for unselfish giving (Luke 10:30-37)
- The woman who anoints His feet with oil (Matthew 26:10-13)
- Specific teachings:
 - "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8)
 - "For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38)

2) Jesus condemns wrong attitudes in giving:

- Giving to be seen by men, or self-praise (Matthew 6:1)
- Giving by the law and ignoring mercy and faith (Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42)
- Giving with an arrogant attitude (Luke 18:12)

3) Jesus gives guidance to the giver:

- Give to care for the poor:
 - When you give to the poor (Matthew 6:1-4)
 - Sell all you have and give to the poor (Matthew 19:16-29)
 - Give that which is within as charity (Luke 11:41)
 - Sell your possessions and give to charity (Luke 12:33)
- Give more than is required: If they ask for a shirt, give a coat also (Matthew 5:40-42)
- Give away possessions that are barriers to faith in God: If you wish to be complete, sell all and give (Matthew 19:16-22) (Also Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:9-30)
- Give to show love to those who have been wronged : Zacchaeus repaying those he had cheated (Luke 19:1-9)
- Give in acts of child-like service:
 - When you did it to the least of these (Matthew 25:35-46)
 - Giving a cup of cold water in My name (Mark 9:41)
- Give to lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20)
- Give as one who is right with his fellow Christians: First be reconciled to your brother (Matthew 5:23)
- Give to support the ministry of the gospel:
 - The laborer is worthy of his hire - money (Luke 10:7)
 - If they receive you, eat what is set before you - food (Luke 10:8)

The Christian and the Tithe

1. Tithing in the Old Testament

- Tithing before the Mosaic Law – Abraham (Genesis 14:17-20) as a spontaneous act of worship: "And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him (Melchizedek) a tenth of all. (Genesis 14:20), Jacob (Genesis 28:18-22) and his tithing vow, "And this stone which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that you will give me I will surely give a tenth to you." (Genesis 28:22).
- Tithing under the Mosaic Law – The celebration tithe (Deuteronomy 12:5-19) for what God has done; The charity tithe (Deuteronomy 14:28-29) for the Levite, widows, orphans, guests, and the temple tithe (Numbers 18:21-24) for the Levites' service to God.

2. Tithing between the Testaments: the annual tithe (Numbers 18:21-24), the celebration tithe (Deuteronomy 12:5-19), the charity tithe (Deuteronomy 14:22-29).

3. Tithing in the New Testament:

- Matthew 23:23 ("Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe... and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice, mercy and faithfulness; these are the things which you should have done without neglecting the other (tithe)")
- Luke 18:11-12 ("I thank you that I am not like other people... I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all I get.")
- Hebrews 7:1-9 ("To whom (Melchizedek) also Abraham gave a tenth part of all.")

The Bottom Line on Tithing

1. Tithing is biblical
2. Tithing (10%) is the starting point in giving
3. Tithing is a test of one's faith
4. Tithing is in direct proportion to one's spiritual growth
5. The church in the future will not survive without faithful and committed tithers

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

The topic of spiritual gifts helps us to discover the type of ministries that might cause us to do some things with a certain ease and effectiveness while others are not so rewarding or in line with our individual passions.

Use the provided inventory to discover how God has gifted you for service in the Kingdom! The inventory is also available online with immediate and interpreted results (www.teamministry.com). Below is a brief description of various spiritual gifts:

Spiritual Gifts Descriptions

Administration

The Greek word "*kubernesis*" means one who steers a ship. This expert had the responsibility to bring a ship into the harbor through the rocks and shoals, under all types of pressures. As an administrator you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by organizing, administering, promoting, and leading the various affairs of the church. The administrator is not a glorified file clerk.

As an administrator you are a take-charge person who jumps in and starts giving orders when no one is in charge. You will put a plan on paper and start delegating responsibility. You may lean toward organizing things, events or programs, OR toward organizing people, emphasizing personal relationships and leadership responsibilities. In the first case, you usually organize details and have people carry them out. In the second case, you tend to organize people and rely on others to take care of the little things.

You don't often admit to mistakes and do not like to take time to explain why you are doing things; you just expect the job to get done. If things in the church, office, club, etc. become fragmented, you can harmonize the whole program if given a chance. You are a person with a dream and are not afraid to attempt the impossible. You are goal-oriented, well-disciplined, and work best under heavy pressure. You are often a good motivator and not a procrastinator. You are serious minded, highly motivated, intense, and have an accurate self-image. You tend to be more interested in the welfare of the group than your own desire. You are probably a perfectionist and want things done your way now.

Although to others you appear to be organized, you usually aren't. Be careful that you do not make decisions just based on logic rather than Scripture. Work on your willingness to admit to making a mistake and on being more sensitive to "little" people. Try to be a little more tolerant of other people's mistakes. Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He can cause pride because of your leadership role, selfishness because of success (not sharing glory with those under you), blame-shifting when things go wrong, discouragement and frustration when goals are not met, anger and mistreatment of those who disagree with your plans, lack of concern for people, lack of spiritual growth, and wrong motives.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? You may work well as the leader of a project, ministry, or program; chairman of a committee or board; a church planner; or chairman of building or fund-raising projects. Other positions where you may serve well include pastor, assistant pastor, business manager, office manager or department head for large staff, Sunday school superintendent, fellowship group or missionary group leader, library manager, camp director, church moderator, bus ministry director, nursery coordinator or Vacation Bible School director.



The gender of the character portrayed does not limit this gift, or any gift, to any particular gender.

Evangelism

That does not necessarily mean you are supposed to travel the world, preaching the Gospel. The Greek word "*Euangelistes*" means to proclaim glad tidings, a messenger of good. It denotes a proclaimer of the Gospel. The evangelist can either be a preacher who stands before a crowd, imploring people to be saved, or perhaps an individual sitting in a living room or on a plane, trying to help people understand what a relationship with Jesus is all about. As an evangelist you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by leading people who are beyond your natural sphere of influence toward faith in Jesus Christ.



The gender of the character portrayed does not limit this gift, or any gift, to any particular gender.

As an evangelist you are likely very outgoing and personable. You compliment even strangers and are not afraid to ask them questions about their lifestyle - such as where they work, what hobbies they have, what's their favorite sports team, where they were born, and do they attend church. This opens the door to talk about their relationship with Jesus Christ - something you're just itching to do. Be careful not to be too overbearing or you may push some people farther away from Christ.

You have great joy in seeing people come to Christ and are often consumed with the desire to confront sinners with the Gospel. You urge other Christians to do the same by directly telling them they must win souls or by encouraging them by telling about your most recent experience. However, you must be careful not to belittle them or make them feel unspiritual because they do not have the burden for lost souls like you do.

You probably have memorized Scripture so you are not caught "empty-handed" while witnessing. Rather than waiting for opportunities to present the Gospel, the evangelist often makes opportunities. Since you will influence so many people, you must be careful to live in such a manner that you do not bring reproach upon your message. For instance, if you influence 30 people and only one of them accepts Christ immediately, the other 29 are left to be harvested later (by you or someone else). If you were to fall spiritually, your life's witness may negatively influence those 29 onlookers against Christianity.

If you are a new Christian, you may want to begin using your gift by providing prospects to seasoned evangelists and giving testimonies to those you knew before you were saved. Perhaps you could pair up with an experienced evangelist to follow up on prospects and visit strangers for the purpose of reaching them for Christ.

If you are a more mature Christian, with experience in evangelizing, take a new Christian "evangelist" under your wing. Share your experiences with him or her and provide encouragement. Continue to look for opportunities to share the Gospel and lead souls to Christ.

Other people may tend to think you are pushy, that you are more interested in numbers than people, and that you judge their spirituality by the number of souls they have won. Beware that Satan can attack your gift by causing pride in your number of converts, causing failure to grow and learn, causing you to see people as numbers rather than people with needs, causing discouragement when converts are few or infrequent, and causing a lack of concern for Bible passages that cannot be used as "soulwinning texts."

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? There are many avenues in which you can carry out the gift of evangelism. Visitation programs are the most obvious. You may enjoy visiting juvenile detention centers or jails, going door-to-door, going to orphanages and shelters for women or the homeless, and of course, following up on visitors in their homes. Your gift is a plus for leading people to Christ during an invitation or altar call. You could participate in special evangelistic efforts, such as fairs and other events. Your gift also fits well in church planting, in migrant ministry, men's or women's conferences, and many public speaking ministries.

Exhortation

The Greek word "*parakaleo*" means to admonish, to encourage, or to persuade. You are a "how to" person. You have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by motivating others to action by urging them to pursue a course of conduct. In a teaching position, you are able to explain how to apply God's Word. Your goal is to present material that enables the Holy Spirit to promote change in the student's life. You reach out and help Christians become more mature.



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As an exhorter you are a very practical person, a good counselor, tolerant of others, serious-minded, orderly, and usually impulsive. You are expressive in a group setting; the group listens when you speak. You are comfortable working one-on-one or in groups. You are enthusiastic and talkative and enjoy encouraging others.

You are burdened to show how Scripture relates to conduct and have a desire to unify people by using practical rather than doctrinal issues. You likely place great importance on God's will and believe that His Word has the answer for every problem. You tend to make decisions logically rather than on feelings and are very orderly.

Be careful not to interrupt other people; your enthusiasm sometimes makes you guilty of this. Others may think you don't use enough Scripture in teaching because you tend to use Scripture to support what you are teaching rather than starting with Scripture.

Unlike teachers, you have the willingness to teach the same material again and again, updating and perfecting it as you do. As a counselor you usually have the ability to leave other people's problems "in the office" rather than letting them drag you down.

Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He may cause pride in your motivational abilities. He may influence you to lose sight of people because of program emphasis. Don't become discouraged when results are not evident. Be careful not to encourage others to do the wrong things through your persuasive abilities.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? You may use your special gift in many areas. You may want to be a leadership trainer. You could certainly serve as a counselor in church or in a counseling center. You could teach in church training or seminars or even small groups. You would make a good telephone ministry worker and would be a tremendous volunteer to follow up with new converts. You would work well as an encourager with those who are discouraged and as a counselor in a drug or alcohol program, rescue mission, poverty program, half-way house or runaway ministry or in a shelter for abused women and children. You could also use your gift in organizing or serving in a Men's or Women's Ministry.

Giving

The Greek word "*metadidomi*" means to give over, to share, to give to, to impart. As a giver you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God. You have a strong desire to meet the financial needs of your fellow Christians and church members.

As a giver you probably feel that the best way you can give of yourself is to give of your material gain for the work of God. You give without public recognition and usually do not want people to know who you are nor how much is given. You disapprove of anyone who gives for the wrong motive. Your motive is to further the work of God and meet real needs, not to show off or get something in return.



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You are usually well organized, keep to yourself, have an accurate self-image, are interested in helping people, and are conscientious and self-disciplined. You may also have the ability to make money. You are sensitive to the financial and material needs of others, alert to needs others overlook, ready to give, want your gift to be high quality, make quick decisions concerning finances, want to ensure your gift is used properly, and may have a burden for missions. Chances are your spouse has the gift of giving too.

Be careful not to measure other Christians' spirituality by the amount of their giving or their success by the amount of their material assets. Realize that though God has called everyone to give, He has not called everyone to give as you do. You are sometimes misunderstood as being materialistic because of your emphasis on money. Some people think you try to control them with your money and may be jealous of you.

Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He can cause pride because of the amount you give, blindness to spiritual needs and qualities and to other areas of service, and discontent when decisions are made contrary to your interests. Do not develop a critical attitude of those who are not able to give. Make sure you have the right motives for giving and serving Christ. Don't mistake your burden for giving to missions as a call to the mission field. Don't neglect to give to the necessity of other Christians (as challenged in Romans 12:13) by giving only to church projects. Remember you can still give even if it is not tax deductible.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? Your gift is welcome anywhere large or small amounts of money are needed. You can serve as a member of a finance committee or a missions or building committee. You may make a good trustee. You would serve well as a member of a school board or commission. You would do great service as a poverty, rescue mission, or migrant mission committee member. You could sponsor or underwrite special projects, radio, or TV ministries. Always be aware and willing to meet needs of an individual apart from programs. In this sense, you could serve on a benevolence committee or give to support such a ministry. You may want to support a men's or women's ministry, a shelter for the temporarily unemployed and homeless or the abused, or contribute to children who do not have parents.

Mercy Showing

The Greek word "e λ lco" means to feel sympathy with or for others. As a mercy-shower you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by identifying with and comforting those who are in distress. You understand and comfort your fellow Christian. You enter into the grief or happiness of others and have the ability to show empathy which is to feel WITH others, not just for others.



The gender of the character portrayed does not limit this gift, or any gift, to any particular gender.

As a mercy-shower you are willing to deal with and minister to people who have needs that most people feel very uncomfortable working with. You seem to say the right thing at the right time. Your personality is likely one of soft-spoken love. It hurts you to scold someone; you are very non-condemning. People love you because of all the love you give them. You find it easy to express yourself and are outgoing with a low-key, inoffensive personality. You are easy to talk to, responsive to people, a good listener, peaceable, and agreeable. You tend to make decisions based on feelings more than fact and like to think about things for a while before making a decision.

In your burden to comfort others, your heart goes out to the poor, the aged, the ill, the underprivileged, and so on. You tend to attract people who are hurting or rejoicing because you identify with them. Be careful not to let others use you. Try not to resent others who are not as understanding as you. Refrain from becoming a gossip when you are around other mercy-showers. Do not let your circumstances control you. Because of your supernatural ability to show mercy, others accuse you of taking up for people, being a softy and a compromiser. They may think you are too emotional.

Mercy-showers make excellent counselors. However, left untrained, you may destroy yourself by your tendency to take people's problems home with you. Your empathy can become detrimental without personal training on how to deal with it.

Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He can cause pride because of your ability to relate to others. He may influence you to disregard rules and authority. You may experience a lack of discipline because of strong feeling for those who hurt due to disobedience and sin. Don't fall into Satan's trap of complaining and griping.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? Your gift is used best in times of sorrow and in times of great joy. It fits well with another gift of service such as deacon, youth worker or hospital visitation. With a counseling course, you could become a good counselor. You may serve as a hospital, nursing home, or shut-in worker; a funeral coordinator and provider of sympathy and support; or a poverty center worker. You would do well as an usher or greeter and welcome center worker or hospitality person. You may want to work in a telephone ministry. You would make people feel welcome on a newcomer visitation team. Other appropriate ministry areas include missions, committee member, furlough assistance, and correspondence helper. You would work well with the elderly and with people who have mental and physical disabilities, in nursing, and with special ministries to migrants, released offenders or abused children and women.

Pastoring/Shepherding

The Greek word "*poimen*" means pastor. In Paul's spiritual gifts listing in Ephesians 4:11, this term is translated "pastor." Although the word "*poimen*" is translated pastor only one time in Scripture it is used sixteen additional times. The remaining sixteen are all translated "shepherd." Therefore, we are actually discussing the GIFT of shepherding, not the POSITION of pastor. Though a good pastor must have the gift of shepherding, everyone who has the gift of shepherding is not called to be pastor. The gift can be used in many positions in a church.

As a gifted shepherd, you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for the needs of a group of Christians. You are usually very patient, people-centered, and willing to spend time in prayer for others. You tend to be a "Jack of All Trades and Master of ONE," meaning you are usually dominant in one of the speaking gifts (evangelist, prophet, teacher, exhorter) as well. You are often authoritative, more a leader than a follower, and expressive, composed, and sensitive. Your pleasing personality draws people to you.



The gender of the character portrayed does not limit this gift, or any gift, to any particular gender.

You have a burden to see others learn and grow and are protective of those under your care. You want to present the whole Word of God and do not like to present the same materials more than once. You are willing to study what is necessary to feed your group and are more relationship oriented than task oriented. You are a peace-maker and diplomat - very tolerant of people's weaknesses. You tend to remember people's names and faces. You are more concerned with doing for others than others doing for you. You are faithful and devoted and may become a workaholic. You can become an all-purpose person in order to meet needs.

People with the gift of shepherding make the best Sunday school teachers and group leaders because their desire is to go beyond just teaching or leading, to shepherd and minister to the daily needs of their students. The position of Sunday school teacher or group leader is an extension of the pastoral ministry in the church. These groups should be shepherded on a small scale the same as the pastor shepherds the whole congregation on a large scale.

Be careful to involve other people; don't try to do it all yourself. Work on making people accountable. Do not be overly protective of your "flock." Because of these potentially weak areas, other people may think it is your job to do all the work; they rely too heavily on you. You may be expected to be available at all times, know all the answers, and be at every function. Learn when to say no.

Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He will cause discouragement when the load gets heavy, and pride because your "sheep" look up to you. You may develop family problems because of too little time and attention. You may become selfish when "sheep" feed in other pastures.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? This gift is a great help in many areas. You may serve as a Sunday school teacher, small group leader, pastor or assistant pastor, bus captain, special ministry leader (such as youth, children, men, etc.), nursery worker or as a half-way house or other type shelter volunteer. You may consider serving as a dormitory leader in a college, orphanage, children's home, etc. Scout troops would appreciate your assistance as a den leader.

Prophecy

That does not mean you are supposed to have visions of the future. It means you are a "forth-teller," telling or "speaking forth" the mind of God: preaching, speaking, and teaching God's Word. You are very discerning; one who points out sin with the goal of making Christians aware of sin in their lives so they will repent. A prophet in full-time Christian service is usually a "hell-fire, brimstone preacher." You have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by proclaiming His truth.

As a prophet you have an ability to see that which is wrong. In fact, you tend to easily spot what is wrong and have to look to find something right. You probably spend much time praying and even weeping over the sins of the church and for lost sinners. You have a great burden over the sinful condition of the world around you. Because of this, you take every opportunity to proclaim that everyone must repent or perish.

You have a strong sense of duty and are very opinionated, impatient, and likely more depressed or serious than lighthearted about life. You enjoy being alone, but would rather be in a group than relate to people one-on-one. You desire to speak publicly. You are able to make quick decisions and want things done right. You do not like in-depth study.

Other people may think you are demanding, that you enjoy hurting people's feelings, and that you have no understanding. One of your greatest challenges is to keep a spirit of love. Remember to "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) and not to be judgmental. If you keep a tender, loving heart, you will be a blessing in your home, church, and to individuals. You can make a real impact on their spirituality. Be careful to let the Holy Spirit convict people, rather than trying to convict them yourself. Work on being a little more positive, patient, and tactful.

Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He may try to cause a lack of compassion and forgiveness, bring discouragement because of unrepentant attitudes by others, entice you to fall into the very sins you speak against or cause pride and self-righteousness over lack of certain sins.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? There are several avenues in which to carry out the gift of prophecy. Revival speaking is certainly a fitting ministry. You can pastor well IF you have a secondary gift of pastor/shepherd. You are a great help in problem-solving for a church with a sin problem. You could also serve in teaching in prison ministry, in migrant ministry, and in counseling to help bring awareness of sin in a person's life. You could speak at conferences and retreats.



The gender of the character portrayed does not limit this gift, or any gift, to any particular gender.

Serving

The Greek word "*Diakonia*" means to do service (literally, "through the dirt." In Acts 6:1 the word is interpreted "ministration." Our word deacon comes from the same Greek word. Actually the gift of serving combines helps and ministering. The word "helps" is used in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and "ministering" in Romans 12:7. As a server you have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by rendering practical help in both physical and spiritual matters. You enjoy meeting the practical needs of your fellow Christians and the church.



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The gift of serving is not the gift God gives you when you cannot do anything else. It is spiritual in nature and as important as any gift in the church. Never think it is anything less; it only becomes less if you do not use it as God intended.

As a server you are the person who is willing to do a million and one necessary tasks in the church. You probably do not realize that your love for the Lord is showing every time the doors of the church are open, especially if you oiled the hinges last week so they don't squeak any more. You are happy working behind the scenes. You are ambitious, often involved in a variety of activities, and enjoy manual projects. You are loyal, sincere, tolerant, faithful, and devoted. Most people find you easy going, likable, congenial, and inoffensive. You can listen to others without being critical. You do not like to be in the spotlight and prefer not to express yourself publicly.

You are quick to respond to needs and impressed with the need to respond when exhorted to serve. Because of this, you find it difficult to say no. You like to support a good leader. Some consider you a workaholic. You tend to emphasize practical needs over spiritual needs.

Be careful that you complete what you start and do not neglect the needs of your own family by trying to meet so many needs in the church or in others' homes. Be willing to read and follow directions in the beginning--not just when all else fails. Because of your quick response, some people think you jump in too fast. Others think you neglect spiritual needs.

Beware of Satan's attack on your gift. He can cause pride because of the work you do. He may cause you to feel insignificant or cause you to lack concern for people or for spiritual growth. Impatience and lack of knowledge cause poor-quality workmanship.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? Your gift may put you into action. You may serve as manager of maintenance and grounds. You can do many tasks such as paint the walls, pick up trash, sort hymnals, clean the baptistry, keep the nursery, or launder nursery bedding, cook meals, paint signs, drive the bus, help with the choir, run errands, serve as an audio-video worker, help with recordkeeping, be the church librarian, act as a greeter or an usher, serve as a stage hand in drama productions or as a photographer. You may want to help in special ministries such as migrant or community help (with home repairs or meal-on-wheels for the needy and elderly), as a hospitality worker for newcomers, or as an instrumentalist. You may also enjoy beautifying the church ground with flower gardens and landscaping. The list goes on.

Teaching

The Greek word for teacher "*didaskalos*" means master, teacher or doctor. As a teacher you are one who communicates knowledge, guides, makes known or relays facts. You are likely more in-depth than the average Sunday school teacher. You have the Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by making clear the truth of God's Word with accuracy.

As a teacher you live to learn and teach (or perhaps write if you teach through the written medium). You should learn to teach in two manners which may be contrary to your nature. The material must be simple so students can understand it, and it must be practical. The pastor/shepherd, the prophet, and the exhorter (those with speaking gifts) usually rely on your resources to help fulfill their responsibilities.

You love the Word, enjoy reading, may be a little shy of strangers, are creative and imaginative, and prefer teaching groups over individuals. You are generally confident, self-disciplined, and sometimes technical. You probably love charts, graphs, and lists. You would sometimes rather just do research, but "must teach" because others would not teach it the way you would. The use of a verse out of context upsets you and you question the knowledge of those who teach you. You are organized and enjoy studying. You are so concerned with accuracy that you often dwell on the trivial, giving others the feeling that you give too many details. Some may even think you are boring.

Be careful that you are not critical of people who differ with your doctrine and that you do not measure other people's spirituality by their amount of Bible knowledge. Be willing to listen as well as talk. Don't hesitate to read directions and work on developing tolerance for others' mistakes.

If you score high in the gift of teaching and very low in the gift of shepherding, you probably won't make a good Sunday school teacher or group leader. Your tendency will be to relay knowledge and not shepherd or minister to the other needs of your students. People who use the gift of teaching in vocational service usually become teachers of teachers, professors, authors, or in-depth researchers.

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS GIFT? You do not necessarily have to teach the Bible to be a help to the church ministry. Although you can help with interpretation or teaching teachers and others, you may teach in areas such as education, business, finance, or computers. You may enjoy writing and developing curriculum. You would probably serve well as a Bible institute teacher or a correspondence course instructor. Your gift also lends itself to the mission field where you could serve as a missionary/teacher. You may want to teach a basic doctrine course to newcomers or new Christians or host quarterly small group studies on different topics. You may enjoy doing research for the pastor or others who teach.



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