



## Pt 3- **Being Useful**

*"Using the abilities God has given us."*

**Romans 12:3-8** (niv)

**Paul expresses several principles concerning the church...**

- a. Christians are one body in Christ.
- b. As one body, we are individually members of one another.
- c. The members do not have the same function.
- d. We should serve in whatever function God has given us ability.

### **1. EXAMINE THE FUNCTIONS**

#### **a. PROPHECY** (*Preaching*)...

1. The Greek word ***propheteia*** is defined as *"the speaking forth of the mind counsel of God."*
2. Originally, this referred to the gift of the Spirit by which one was inspired to reveal God's truth.
3. Preaching is also sharing the wisdom of God as already revealed, by expounding upon the Word of God, not through direct inspiration.

#### **b. MINISTRY** (*Serving*)...

1. The Greek word ***diakonia*** means *"to serve."*
2. It is often used to describe any sort of service.
3. In a more official capacity, it is used to describe those qualified and appointed to serve as ***deacons*** (diakonos).

#### **c. TEACHING** (*Instructing*)...

1. Involves instructing others of the Word of God.
2. There are variations of this function.

**d. EXHORTING** (*Building up*)...

1. The ability to build up and strengthen others.

**e. GIVING** (*Sharing*)...

1. Some people find themselves abundantly blessed. God has given them “seed for sowing fruits of righteousness.” (**2 Corinthians 9:8-11**)
2. It is within their ability and responsibility to give and to bless others. (see **1 Timothy 6:17-19**)

**f. LEADING** (*Shepherding*)...

1. This likely refers to the work of elders (*or pastors, overseers.*) (see **Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-2**)
2. They have the responsibility of watching out for our souls - **Hebrews 13:17**
3. They must meet specific qualifications to serve in this function. (see **1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**)

**g. SHOWING MERCY** (*Loving*)...

1. Perhaps this service is best illustrated in **Matthew 25:35-36**.
2. Can involve visiting the sick, the dying, the bereaved and those in prison, etc.

## 2. EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES

Take advantage of learning opportunities...

Try serving in all areas open to you...

Don't give up after the first few tries...

## CONCLUSION

Let us examine the functions of service in the body of Christ and to explore the opportunities to learn and to serve in the different functions presented.

**Our challenge is to be diligent in utilizing our function...**

- a. As Paul admonishes his readers in **Romans 12:6-8**
- b. As Peter admonishes his readers in **1 Peter 4:10-11**

There is much work to do. Let us be diligent to do it “with the ability God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ...” (**1 Peter 4:11**)