

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

A PORTRAIT OF A HEALTHY CHURCH: ENGAGED MEMBERS

ROMANS 12:6-18

MAY 5th, 2024

Four Characteristics of a Healthy Member

- I. Use spiritual gifts to serve: vs. 6-8
- II. Grow in godliness: vs. 9b, 11, 12, 14, 16b, 17
- III. Care for one another in community: vs. 9a, 10, 13, 15
- IV. Actively maintain unity: vs. 16, 18

Questions:

1. When you think about spiritual gifts, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?
2. Divide up into four groups and assign each group one of the following passages and spend about 10 minutes answering these two questions: "What spiritual gift is listed and how might we define it?" Then, come back as a whole group and share what you've learned:
 - 1 Peter 4:9-11
 - Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Romans 12:6-8
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11;28-30
3. Spend a few minutes asking each person to share what their spiritual gift(s) is and how they are using it. Perhaps use the following questions to help if someone does not know their gift:

Four Questions to Discern a Spiritual Gift

- 1) Where are the needs around me?
 - 2) What do I enjoy?
 - 3) Where am I spiritually effective?
 - 4) Where am I being affirmed by others?
4. Why is being deeply involved in a local church pivotal for growing in godliness? How does Paul seem to connect these two ideas in Romans 12?
 5. At what level do you feel truly known by others in this church and this small group? Is there room to be known more deeply? If so, how might that occur and why is it important?
 6. Why is maintaining unity in the body so important? What are some ways you can do this proactively rather than reactively?