

Simplicity of the Simple Life  
Week #5

Last Sunday we talked about the importance of authenticity as we learn to evaluate our lives and take inventory of ourselves.

We must learn to be honest with ourselves, honest with God as we learn to live authentic lives with those closest to us.

The Simplicity of the Simple Life as become very complicated in our current world. Distractions abound and often dominate our lives.

*Many of us long to belong and connect in community but are waiting for someone else to do something on our behalf in order for us to feel our level of importance or connection.*

**We have made the “church” experience the same thing.**

**Consumer church.....what are you going to offer me.....what’s in it for me.....what are you going to do to make this easy for me??????**

**You are here this morning being confronted with a different approach.....a Biblical approach to church which is a Contribution church.....what do I have to offer God & others.....how can I help and bless someone else.....how can I invest in others who are having a difficult time??????**

(Reread both sections)

Romans 12:1-3 NLT

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*<sup>3</sup> Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.*

Romans 12:4-8 NLT

*<sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

*<sup>6</sup> In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. <sup>8</sup> If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

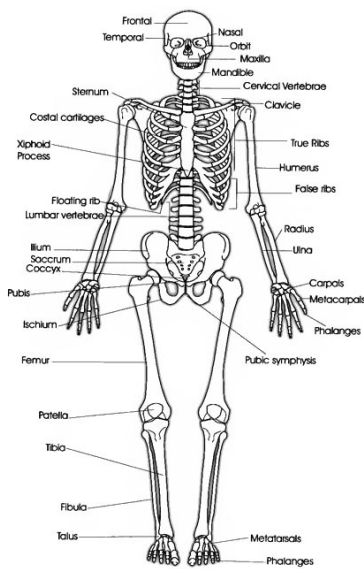
Romans 12:4-8 The Message

*4-6 In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.*

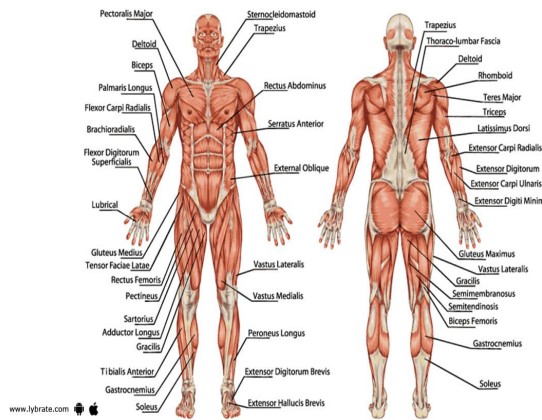
*6-8 If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.*

Last lesson we mentioned the importance of all the detailed parts of the human body. Interconnectivity for a healthy body

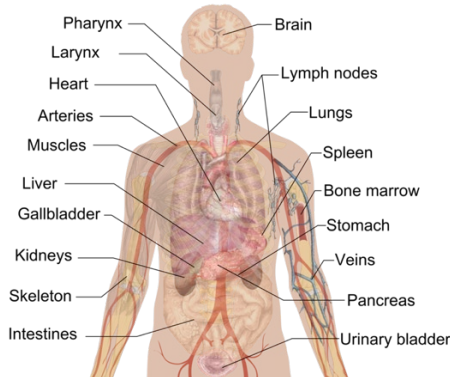
Do your part. Participate like you matter to His body. We are Christ's body, the church.



### Muscular System



### Internal organs



Our responsibility as spiritual leaders in this family is health. We are striving to have a spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically healthy body of believers.

Let's start simple and allow the simplicity to reveal deep truth to us.

Two concepts that Paul reiterates over and over again.....

⇒ Grace

⇒ Faith

Ephesians 2:8-10 NASB 1995

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that (salvation) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Colossians 1:9-14 ESV

*<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Paul's teachings are predicated on a personal relationship with Father God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, and made active by the presence of the Holy Spirit at the point of belief.....**

**The Grace of God intersecting with the Faith of a human being.**

It is super important that we press in to the simplicity of the gift that is imparted by grace through faith and that is embraced as well as lived out by grace through faith.

**The gifts are for the health of the body for the glory of the Lord**

**The gifts are not for self-glory, prominence, or power**

Resource: GotQuestions.org "Is there a biblical spiritual gifts list?"

Resource: Christianity.com "What Are Spiritual Gifts? Types, Definitions, and Examples in the Bible"

Resource: Crosswalk.com "How to Identify and Effectively Use Your Spiritual Gifts"

Resource: Cru.org "Spiritual Growth. What Are Spiritual Gifts?"

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

1 Corinthians 12:28

Ephesians 4:11

*Salvation is by grace through faith  
Spiritual gifts are distributed by grace through faith*

*Our God is a generous God.....A giver of gifts*

**The Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers spiritual gifts to continue taking the message about Jesus to the world (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:7).**

**Those gifts were essential for spreading the gospel, leading the church, building up believers, and serving others as an example of God's love.**

(Reread slowly)

This morning, I am less concerned about studying the possibilities of all the spiritual gifts (I will ask you to consider all that are listed as a sampling not just an exhaustive list, just think about it) as I am more concerned about how you are pursuing God in the church and your understanding of why you have been given gifts from God.

**Relationship:** It's personal between you (us) and God because we have believed (**faith, hope, and love become personal**)

**Focus:** Big picture of a healthy body not just personal health. (**making it about the mission and not yourself**)

**Discovery:** Spiritual gifting is personal confirmation of your importance to God and His body (**embrace who you are and how you can bless**)

**Practice:** Learning to function and do your part for health of the church for the glory of our Lord Jesus (**learn to walk in it**)

*These are motivating realities for why we do what we do here at MVC.  
Why pursue the property at Good Hope Baptist? (allow silence)*

*God's provision: relationship.....focus.....discovery.....practice  
We have all the parts to grow and flourish to expand the kingdom of God. This simply provides more space for more people to learn and grow and practice.  
.....Use hand motion of growth.....up then down and spreading out.....*

**MVC drum beat:**

**“Learning, growing, and changing by the guidance of the Holy Spirit through baby steps”**

**“Learning to love God and learning to love others”**

**“Serving activates faith”**