

Growth Track



Being a Body

COMPASS
SOUTH

Growth Track | Being a Part of the Body Purpose & Calling in the Local Church.

We are so glad that you have chosen to join us and desire that you find your place here at Compass South and the calling God has specifically placed on your life to serve Him and others. The Growth Track is centered on the gospel and spiritual growth. It is our heart to encourage and help you along the way to growing, flourishing, and embracing God's call on your life.

We are going to let the following verse in **Ephesians 4:16** guide us through this session.

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Praying this verse:

1. Jesus, we trust that **you will build your church.**
2. We know **you are able to put people together.**
3. Lord **raise up each person to do their part.**
4. Help us be **a church that includes people** and enlists them.
5. We want to be **people that are serving/encouraging each other.**
6. Give us **a church culture that is growing, healthy, and full of love.**

1. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly

Ephesians 2:21-22 says,

In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit.

God is putting together a people to dwell with.

God Tabernacles with us.

“Shekinah” is from the Hebrew word which means “to reside or permanently stay.” The rabbis used the term Shekinah to describe the presence of God amongst His people ([Exodus 19:16-18](#)) The glory of God dwelling in the Temple ([2 Chronicles 7:1](#))

The Glory of the Lord EXODUS 40

34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. **38** For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Exodus starts with the people of God in Egypt, enslaved, and in darkness. The book of Exodus is about getting Israel out of Egypt and Egypt out of Israel.

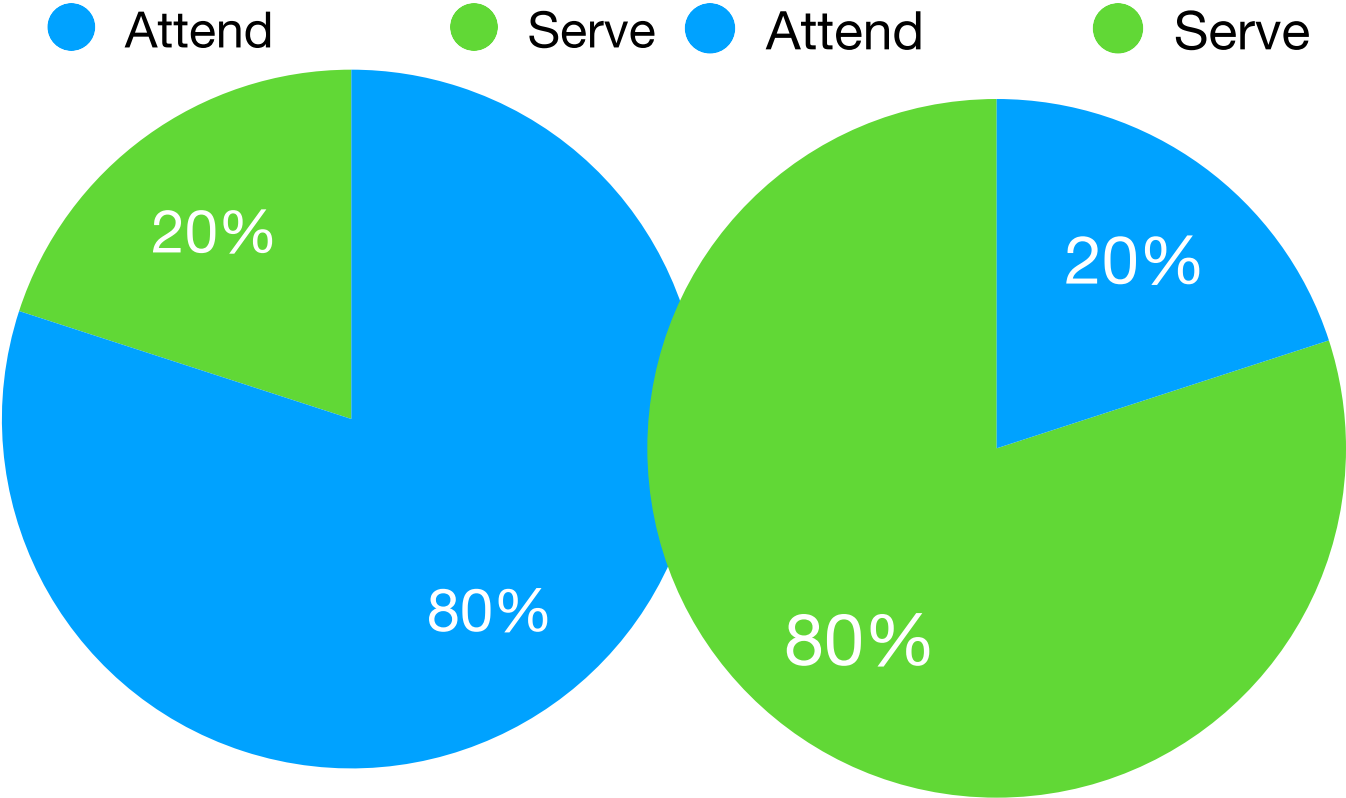
Exodus 35:4&5 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; **Take from among you a contribution to the Lord. 'Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord's contribution:**

Exodus 35:10 “Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the Lord has commanded; And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded;.

Exodus 35:20-22 Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.

Exodus 35:30-31 Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—**34** And Lord has put it in his heart to teach, he and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

A healthy church has a high percentage of engagement. Unhealthy churches have a few people giving most of the offerings, most of their time, and most of their hearts.



Everyone whose heart was stirred and spirit was moved. They came with Stuff, Gifting, Influence, and Calling.

The way we give tells us something about the condition of our hearts and our faith.

A willing offering or a dreaded offering.

A first fruit or a left over.

A purposed gift or sporadic one.

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

Exodus 4:2-4 The Lord said to Moses, "**What is that in your hand?**" He said, "**A staff.**" **3** And he said, "**Throw it on the ground.**" So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.

4 But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand...

Two Things God Told Moses to Do:

Throw it down- Surrender & Pick it up- Sanctify it.

ROMANS 12 EXERCISE IN HOW WE RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER.

Jay spills his cup in the office. Everyone else in the room began to respond. First, John stood up and said, "Oops, I am sorry" and immediately stood up and went to the person to encourage them. Then Mary went for the mop to help clean up the coffee. Kim opened her purse and said, "no problem I will get you another cup of coffee." Dan surveyed the situation and saw that the mess was being cleaned, someone was comforting Jay, and that Kim was replacing the coffee. He organizes and suggests that Ethan look into why this keeps happening and share what he learns with the office, and that Casey thanks everyone for being such a great office. Jody assesses the whole team and reminds the group they make a great

team and sees them working well together with challenges that are ahead.

John the Mercy
Kim the Giver
Ethan the Teacher
Jody the Prophet

Mary the Servant
Dan the Administrator
Casey the Exhorter

Which one are you? _____

THE TOOL BOX ILLUSTRATION - Chad

My sons both were given tool boxes when they turned a certain age. I invited men to come and give them different tools to put in their tool box and say a few words and pray over them. Each man would hand the boys a particular tool and say something about what it means to be a man. I gave them both the tool boxes and shared with them my intention. I want my sons to be men who do things that matter. I want them to be equipped and able men. My prayer is that in our home we equipped them for a life that pleases the Lord. Off they go with their tool boxes and hopefully it is a reminder that they have our love and support.

What God gives us is meant to be used. One thing about tools is they are meant for specific tasks. One of the ways we figure out what God wants us to do is by figuring out what tools he has given us.

**When we use what we have to do what we can our
Heavenly Father will be pleased with us.**

2. As each part does its own special work

Every believer receives a gift from God that has specific purpose in their lives and us used to build each other up.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

*"As God's children, we are not to be observers; we're to participate actively in the Lord's work. **Spectators sit and watch**, but we are called to use our spiritual gifts and serve continually"* - C. Stanley
God not only Has a special work for you but He is preparing you to do it and providing what you need to accomplish it.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ways that we can find our purpose:

Experiences and skills

I think of the way God used and prepared a shepherd boy named David. David's experience as a shepherd, protecting the flock, defending the helpless sheep from predators, built confidence and skill with his tools. Later in life, using a shepherd tool/weapon he defeated a God defying giant. Doesn't it seem like God used that time in David's life as a shepherd to prepare him for what he would face? Can you see how God has done that in your life as well?

Passions and Gifts

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

Psalms 37: 4-5

The Psalmist is saying that when you delight in the Lord that God will even provide you with desires. These desires align with God's plan for your life. God provides you with desires and to be given those desires is to have success or accomplishment in those.

God will never give you a desire or calling that is contrary to scripture.

Romans 12:6-8 *Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Your gifts and passions are likely the areas that you love and naturally excel in. As a believer, God has given you a gift to use to build up the body of Christ. Using your gift is like using the right tool when doing a certain job. Years ago, as a young married man I often would need to fix something or build something in our house. The only power tool I had was a circular saw (skill saw). I remember making a door threshold with the saw. The use of the saw for this task was inefficient and incredibly dangerous, but it was all I had. God often calls us to a task, that is beyond our earthly ability. The great thing about knowing God through Jesus as Savior is that he gives us, His children heavenly gifts so that we are able to do the work that we couldn't have done otherwise. He provides the right tool for the job and asks us to trust Him through the whole process.

Trials and Pain

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

We will all face hard times. This is one way that God makes “beauty from ashes”. The trial or pain in your life can be used for good in helping others through their hardships in their life. The pain is real and is heavy but it does get better as we lean on the Lord. We must remember that a trial has a beginning and an end. Things may not “be the same” after the trial is over, but we must remember that God uses it all and that he is the Redeemer.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Some of our trial and pain involve people. The bible teaches us to forgive, and to live at peace with one another as far as it depends on you. As hard as it can be sometimes, pain has purpose, and the purpose was not to keep you down, but to trust the Lord who restores. The Lord will not just restore you, but will use you in the restoration of others. He comforts you in your affliction, so that you can comfort others with that same comfort he has given you.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

___ **Shepherding** - The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Eph. 4:11).

___ **Faith** - Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

___ **Evangelism** - God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship (Eph. 4:11).

___ **Apostleship** - The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look

beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).

___ **Service/Helps** - Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

___ **Mercy** - Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church (Rom. 12:8).

___ **Giving** - Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Rom. 12:8).

___ **Hospitality** - Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They often use their home to entertain guests. Persons with this gift integrate new members into the body (1 Pet. 4:9).

God has gifted you with an expression of His Holy Spirit to support His vision and mission of the church. It is a worldwide vision to reach all people with the gospel of Christ. As a servant leader, God desires that you know how He has gifted you. This will lead you to where He would have you serve as part of His vision and mission for the church.

3. It helps the other parts grow

Compass' purpose can be summed up in just three words:

UPWARD , INWARD , OUTWARD.

A healthy church and a healthy Christian have this in common.

We exist to connect to God through the gospel of Jesus Christ (UPWARD), to connect with the body of Christ as family in gospel community (INWARD), and to connect with those that don't know Christ through gospel mission (OUTWARD).

These ideas are best illustrated in a three legged stool.

We believe that all three components of gospel-centered living are required to have a healthy church. If you think about it, can you really be a church if any one of these components is missing?

We Were Meant to Encourage One Another

John Ortberg talks about “signature sins”. He says that our personalities set us with a pre-disposition to certain sins. A choleric personality is great at getting things done. They are typically driven and able to address issues head on. The negative part of a person like this is that they can be dominant and get angry. A sanguine personality is able to fill the room and can be so much fun. The negative part of a person like this is that they can be impulsive. The phlegmatic personality is able to order their lives and live consistently. They are typically very dependable and reasonable. The negative part of a person like this is that they can be pessimistic and fearful. The melancholy personality is thoughtful and typically creative. They are considerate. The negative part of this personality is that they can despair and overthink things.

The diver, the inspirer, the plodder, and the thinker are all beautifully intended by God to make the world a better place.

If you are a choleric

you need to know your personality can struggle with anger.

If you are a phlegmatic

you need to know your personality can struggle with fear.

If you are a sanguine

you need to know your personality can struggle with foolishness.

If you are a melancholy

you need to know your personality can struggle with despair.

If you are working with a choleric,

Praise God for their capacity to get things done.

If you are working with a phlegmatic,

Praise God for their capacity to be steady and dependable.

If you are working with a sanguine,
Praise God for their capacity to inspire and impact people.

If you are working with a melancholy,
Praise God for their capacity to be considerate.

These personalities need humility, trust, hope, and wisdom and this happens in the context of relationships. Our sanctification is brought about in the Biblical community of a local church.

God makes light and dark, night and day, land and sea, and man and woman. He loves to put different things together.

There are some things that God **gave** you when He created you. These are your talents, personality, and other things like this.

There are also some things that God has had you **go through** in life. These are your experiences. Both of these help determine how God uses your life and help define the way that you will serve.

But perhaps the biggest thing of all is how God has **gifted** you with a spiritual gift.

What personality type are you? _____

What do you have a heart for? _____

What spiritual gift do you have? _____

No matter what your personality characteristics are, or what your spiritual gifts are, you can find your purpose and put your gifts to work right here within this body of believers by being part of our **Serve Teams.**

4. So that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

At the end of Exodus:

Everyone whose heart was stirred and spirit was moved. They came with **Stuff, Gifting, Influence, and Calling.**

The traditional meaning of "heave-offering" derives from the idea of "elevation," or lifting. The is when a person not only gives their presence but also their passion.

There is a kind of offering that is called the first fruits offering. Some commentaries call it the heave offering. It is the image of taking the first pick and elevating it up or dedicating it to the Lord.

The way we give tells us something about the condition of our hearts and our faith. (The speech I gave the first night as a college pastor)

A willing offering or a dreaded offering.

A first fruit or a left over.

A purposed gift or sporadic one.

Moses could not lead them where he had not himself been.

Exodus 4:4-4

Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" The Lord said to him, "**What is that in your hand?**" He said, "A staff." And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

This is what God did in Moses and this is what God wants to do in us.
The Letter to the Romans and Paul's description of the Gospel

Paul writes this amazing explanation of the Gospel to a band of believers in Rome. Rome was a pagan metropolis. It was the epicenter of hedonistic culture. Yet, this little sect of christians turned Rome on it's head. How does a group that follows a carpenter from the country-side of Galilee subvert the Roman Empire?

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, **brothers, by the mercies of God**, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual worship**. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewal** of your mind, that by testing you may discern **what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

"You cannot stay where you are and go with God. You cannot continue doing things your way and accomplish God's purpose in His ways. Your thinking cannot come close to God's thoughts. For you to do the will of God, you must adjust your life to Him, His purposes, and His ways" **Henry Blackaby**

"It was becoming clearer and clearer that if I wanted to come to the end of my life and not say, "I've wasted it!" then I would need to press all the way in, and all the way up, to the ultimate purpose of God and join him in it. If my life was to have a single, all-satisfying, unifying passion, it would have to be God's passion." **John Piper**

What we say with our Bible, we can unsay with our behavior

Some Affirmations and Denials

- Loving people to God over regulating them to God
- Spiritual care & relationship over church growth and machinery.
- Meaningful connection over surface level attendance.
- Serving as a spiritual act of worship and joy over consumerism.

Serving

The Growth track that we have been going through is going to be an integral part of Compass South. We want to see people who don't know the Lord to come here, and see them move through the process.

The first session was “Knowing God” and having a personal relationship with Him. The second session was about “Life Together” or living in community with other believers, which is for building and encouraging each other up in the faith. The third session was about “Knowing Your Spiritual Gifts”. You are wonderfully made, and God has designed you in a specific way for a reason. The final session is about serving or using the gifts that God has given you in a way that builds people up and honors the Lord.

Growth track is a process, and you could jump straight to end. But we believe that it is important that you move through the process so that you can truly serve where God has called and designed you. We believe this will allow you to have joy and fulfillment as you serve. Serving is also key in helping others move through this growth track process of knowing God, living life together, and discovering their spiritual gift and using it for His kingdom.

When we talk about serving there are a few questions that might come to mind. Two that should come to the top of that list is **“Why should I serve in the church?”** and another is **“What does serving in the church look like?”** Let’s start with “why we should serve”.

Jesus was a servant.

Jesus is our best example of how we should live our life and he shows us what it looks like to serve. The Gospels over and over show how Jesus served others. From healing the lame Blind and sick, showing compassion and mercy, discipling people, and rescuing people from spiritual bondage.

Chapter 9 of Matthew records six different miracles or acts of service that Jesus performed. Jesus acts of service allowed people to know that he cared for them. Jesus’s life is the ultimate case study of what serving should look like, and his life culminated in the ultimate act of service his sacrificial death on the cross.

Philippians 2 says, Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The body of the church needs us.

Paul in his letters uses the illustration that the church is a body made of many members, and each of its members has a purpose, and each member is vital for the church to function as it should.

1 Corinthians 12:14-20

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

As we are launching this church body, we need each part of the body to function. While some parts are more visible such as the worship team or preaching, the non-visible parts are equally as important. For example, if we didn't have a setup team the service here would not happen, so each part is needed. If we are missing a specific part the whole body suffers as a result.

Skip down to the middle of verse 24 **But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.**

Service is an essential part of the body and is why you will see us put a lot of emphasis on Growth Track. The goal of the body is to glorify God and to bring his kingdom on earth, and each part of the body is needed to accomplish that goal.

Now that we know “why we serve”, the next question we need to answer is what that looks like. Romans 12 give us an example of what service is the church body looks like.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

In this passage Paul gives examples of seven different gifts and how those gifts should be used. Paul says, if you are given a god-compelled task or motivation to act then do it.

For those who have the gift of mercy you will have a burdened heart so be careful not to let it overshadow everything.

For those who are gifted in administrations you will be able to get things done and it will be tempting to cut corners.

For those who are able to give and provide, you can over-think it and price yourself out of helping anyone.

For those who exhort and encourage use it to encourage people instead of be condescending.

For those who have the ability to teach, don't take your hand off the plow from weariness or distraction.

For those who are able to assess and forecast, do it in a way that builds faith in people and doesn't tear them down.

The Message paraphrase offers a wonderful point of view:

"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. 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."

Romans 12:6-8 MSG

From this we see seven things to avoid:

1. If you are called to preach God's word adding our own opinions or taking His word out of context.
2. If you are called to serve or to help others do so without taking control.
3. If you are called to teach focus on teaching and taking on too much
4. If you are called to encourage others do so without getting bossy
5. If you are called to lead do so without manipulation

6. If you are called to give be on the lookout for opportunities and be able responding quickly.
7. If you are called to do acts of mercy or help those disadvantaged do so without becoming overwhelmed or depression and irritation.

MINISTERING

Romans 12:9-13

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. **Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.** Never be lazy, but **work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.** Rejoice in our confident hope. Be **patient in trouble, and keep on praying.** When **God's people are in need, be ready to help them.** Always **be eager to practice hospitality.**"

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> genuine affection | <input type="checkbox"/> delight in honoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> serving the Lord enthusiastically | <input type="checkbox"/> ready to help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eager to practice hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Hope confidently |

GIVING

IF THIS IS ABOUT US THEN WE SHOULD BE ASHAMED.
IF THIS IS ABOUT THE LORD THEN WE SHOULD BE UNAPOLOGETIC.

Here is a quote from the author Bill Hybels:

"Leadership is a lot about asking. Leaders ask spiritual seekers to consider Christ. They ask believers to grow up in their faith.

They ask staff members and volunteers and donors and contractors to show up and give their best time and money and energy and heart—all because they believe so much in the cause they're pursuing.

So I realized long ago that "asking" would always be a significant part of my leadership role. What I didn't know was that the longer I led, the bigger my "asks" would get. **I had no choice: God was laying big visions on my mind and heart, and the only way they were**

going to get translated into reality was if some big asks were made.

Shamelessly ask I did ... publicly, privately, and prayerfully.

When handled properly, people are actually quite flattered to be asked to do significant things for God. Granted, they might not always say yes—they can't always say yes—but they are almost always honored by a wise and well-timed ask.

When someone asked me to help advance their cause, I'd think, ***“Wow. They must think I'm kingdom-oriented enough to care about something like this. What's more, they must think I actually have a contribution to make in achieving their goal.”***

In my own life, I've rarely made a sizable step forward—spiritually, physically, emotionally, or otherwise—unless someone asked me to do so.

One of the greatest gifts you can give the people around you is to get in front of them, eyeball-to-eyeball, and ask them to step up and do something great for God.

Do it well, and you'll bring glory to God, esteem to the other person, and much-needed resources to your ministry.” - Hybels



10 Scriptures To Help Guide Our Giving

1. Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

When you give to the support of a local church you are treasuring the very body that Christ himself died for. (*Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*)

2. What Goes Around Comes Around

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

If you skimp on *the way* you give, God will make sure you will pay for it in other ways. (2Co 9:6 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*)

3. Giving is a Method in which God chooses to Reveal Himself

Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

If you opt out of giving you miss the opportunity for God to show Himself as your provider. It is the giver that takes his hand off of his possessions. It is the giver that God will use to fund the ministry of the local church.

4. The New Testament Christians Gave

1 Cor. 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

If every person would give on Sunday a set aside amount in proportion to how much they have the collection would be enough to fund all of our mission needs, ministerial needs, and any other need of the church. In America today the average giving is at 2%. That means many people give far less than that. In 1 Corinthians 4:7, Paul asks, “And what do you have that you did not receive?”

5. Our Giving to the church gives us a part of the credit for the work.

Php 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. ... 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but **I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

A giver can share in the results of the ministry. They say that they had a part in the gospel being preached, the church being built, the baton of faith being passed from one generation to another because they did not give. Paul told the givers that they were a part of the effort.

6. Seeking to prioritize providing for God's church over self provision is taught by Jesus.

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Jesus taught to put the priority first on the kingdom of God and He would meet your needs.

7. Giving to the church is a Blessing

Act 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

The giver receives the benefit of a church's facility, a church's staff, a church's resources, and a church's community. If Jesus says that the better side to be on is the giving side, the one who only receives is missing out. Proverbs 11:24-25 says, "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

8. The Holy Spirit produced a Generous Environment within the Church

Act 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. 36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, 37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

Anyone who is filled with the Holy Spirit will use what they have to build the church. Specifically we see in Acts 4 that the people did not sell their land and distribute it themselves. They took finances to the church and give it as unto the Lord for the church to distribute it. This practice took away the self glory and put the distribution's allocation to the glory of God.

When believers allow their offerings to be distributed through the church they no longer lay claim to it. In the spirit of not touching that which is holy the giver gives without strings attached.

9. Most churches appropriate about 1/2 of their Budget to fund their preacher's salary. Givers to the church support their pastors.

1Ti 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. **18** For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward.

The scripture calls on the congregation to fund the salary of the pastors. Givers to local churches are fulfilling the admonition of scripture to not muzzle the ox.

10. Spiritually Mature people carry responsibility.

I Timothy 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, especially for those of his own household, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel"

The member of a church is a part of the household of faith. The church is a called out assembly that is covenanted together to carry out the commission. 1 Timothy gets real plain. Paul says that a non-provider is like a non-believer.

Set Yourself Aside

Look at what Joshua said:

Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, giving these instructions to the people: “When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, move out from your positions and follow them. **Since you have never traveled this way before**, they will guide you. Stay about half a mile behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark. Make sure you don’t come any closer.”

Then Joshua told the people, “**Consecrate yourselves today, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you.**” Joshua 3

Put your yes on the table.

If God is calling you to salvation, then do it today.

If God is calling you to follow Jesus in baptism, then respond today.

If God is leading you to this church, commit yourself now.

If God is prompting you to surrender your life to him, don't let this moment pass.

Paul runs down a list of people who made a difference in his life. Let's do a quick inventory.

1. Phoebe - she was like sister and especially helped me. Romans 16:1-2
2. Priscilla and Aquila- they once risked their lives for me and their home was open to us. 16:3-4
3. Epenetus- He was my friend and one of the first people to jump in and follow the Lord. 16:5
4. Mary- She was a hard worker and so willing to serve others. 16:6

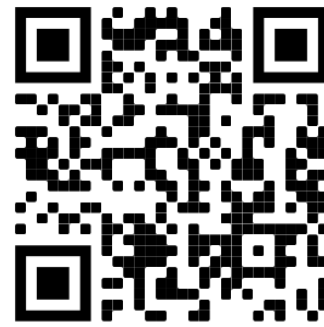
5. Andronicus and Junia- they were examples to me and so respected. They right beside me when we were thrown in jail for our faith. 16:7
6. Urbanus- we were worked together 16:9
7. Rufus - whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me. Romans 16:13

Paul named 26 in his list of people that really meant something to him as he looked back over his journey of faith.

He then wrote this:

And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. Romans 16:17-18

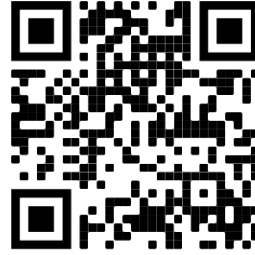
SERVE TEAMS AT COMPASS CHURCH



Which Team would you be interested in serving on?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up/Tear down Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass Kids Ministry Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Production (Sound & Video) | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communion | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Ministry Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brotherhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Table Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate Recovery Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Christmas Child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Response |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Track Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security Team | |

SMALL GROUPS AT COMPASS CHURCH



Small Group

Salado Small Group

Andy & Angela Sherrill, Dylan/Katie Herekamp, Hutton/Kerri Grace, Natalie Humphries, Caleb/Erin Spears, Nick/Jessica Fowler, CJ/Chandler Richardson, Tanner Sherrill

Dennison Heights Small Group

Roger & Kathy Ried, Trey Trucks, Novella Humphries, Chuck & Gena Barker, Barbara Brooks, Jason & Angie Weaver, Suzanne Rains

Recovery Small Group

Chris & Alyssa Stark with the Recovery Team
Josh & Megan Ramey, Brian Beach,
Seth Toon, Andrew Allender, Leah Langston,
Brittany Hill

Downtown Small Group

Aaron & Cami Elms, Chris & Angie Insell,
Joe & Janelle Shell, Scott & Michelle Perkey,
Brian Yeager, Ryan & Heather Keirn

JHigh Small Group

Darius & Chelsea Davis, Jordan Shane,
Jeremy & Rachael William, Keith & Nina
Provence

SrHigh Small Group

Alan & Lindsey Brewer, Tyler & Leea
Godush, Chad & Lori Passmore, Randy

Moorefield Small Group

Chad & Julie Graves, Steve & Jane
Summers, Danny & Tammy Cox, Randy &
Katrina Stevens

Time & Place

Sunday Nights at 6PM

45 Cedar Rock Ln
Batesville , AR 72501

Sunday Nights at 6PM

835 Dennison Heights
Batesville, AR 72501

Monday Nights 6:30 PM

149 Rorie St.
Southside, Ar. 72501

Monday Nights at 6PM

649 E College St
Batesville, AR 72501

Wednesday Nights at 6PM

75 Spout Springs
Southside , AR 72501

Wednesday Nights at 6PM

30 River Ridge Lane
Rosie, AR 72571

Wednesday Nights at 6PM

1812 Clearwater Trace
Batesville, Ar 72501

Southside Family Small Group

Noah & Alicia Davidson, Andy & Teri Nicholson,
Rusty & Jeannie Langle, Luke & Maggie
Henderson, Jason & Amanda Cissell, Coby &
Kristen Jones, Clint & Emily Thomas,
Jeff & Bianca Fox

Clearview Community Small Group

Wesley & Kelsey Brooks, Jeff & Darlene Fowler,
Chris & Alyssa Stark, Brandon & Shawna Gay

Wednesday Nights at 6PM

250 Lacy Lane
Batesville, AR 72501

Sunday Nights at 6PM

135 Community Dr
Southside, AR 72501