

SERIES: God's Dream Team
Message: The Functional Gift of Service

Text: Romans 12: 4, 6, 7 & 10

"⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function ... ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... ⁷or service/ministry, let us use it in our serving/ministering ... ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

Out of 100 people, about how many will have the gift of service? 30

I. THREE REQUIREMENTS TO BE CHOSEN AS A SERVER/DEACON/MINISTER

1. Of a good REPUTATION (Acts 6:3)
2. Filled with the HOLY SPIRIT
3. Full of WISDOM (knowing how to live right)

Luke 10:38 ff, John 13-17

II. 12 DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT OF SERVING

1. A burning desire to meet the physical and PRACTICAL needs of others and the Church.
2. Servers have real INSIGHT into the practical needs of others and the church, and can recognize those needs when others cannot.
3. The practical needs of others and the church draws a server to a particular JOB.
4. It is very hard for people with this gift of serving to ever say "NO" when they see a need which they can meet.
5. Servers often get involved in too many things, spreading themselves too thin.
6. Servers often get so involved in meeting the practical needs of others that they neglect SPIRITUAL needs.

7. Servers expect everyone else to be just as dedicated and energetic in serving as they are.

8. Others tend to think of servers as people who are always

PUSHING them into something.

9. Servers want to get the job over as quickly as possible so they can move on to the next job.

10. Servers find it very hard to work under the direction of anyone else, and they hate going through "red tape."

11. Servers have tremendous physical stamina and can KEEP GOING when everyone else stops to rest.

12. Servers think nothing of SACRIFICING their own time and their own money to get a specific job done.

III. THE COMMON DANGER TO ALL WHO HAVE THE GIFT OF SERVING:

THEY TEND TO BE MORE TASK ORIENTED THAN

PEOPLE ORIENTED. They often undermine their relationships in order to get a job done.

IV. GOD'S ANSWER FOR THIS DANGER:

1. Jesus says that anyone who works for Him must have a SERVANT'S heart, that is, "a heart for people"; because the end must always be reconciliation (right relationships); not a job.
2. Fulfill the three requirements for a server/deacon/minister.
3. "LOVE one another with brotherly affection: (and then) outdo one another in showing HONOR." (Romans 12:10, RSV).

CLOSE: How's Your Heart?