

Sermon Topic: Stuck in the Middle with You –Romans 12:3-9 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: Matt Cassidy is doing a short series on Romans 12. This week we will look at verse 3-9 about serving others by exercising our spiritual gift. Matt defines a **spiritual gift as a God-given ability that allows us to carry out a particular function in the family of God with ease and effectiveness.**

Study Questions:

1. **Read Romans 12:1-5. Follow the progression of this passage, V1 Rightly related to God, V2-3 Assessing ourselves properly, V4-9 Serving others. How does one thing set up the next and they build on each other? Why is it reasonable that the first two precede serving?**
2. **See Matt's definition of a spiritual gift above. How would you distinguish a spiritual gift from a natural ability or learned skill? How would you distinguish between having a spiritual gift in an area and what all believers are called to do? Examples: We are all supposed to be compassionate but there is a gift of mercy. We are to give generously but there is a gift of giving. We are to witness for Christ but there is a gift of evangelism.**
3. **Read Romans 12:4-5. Why are the spiritual gifts primarily for use in the church? Why are we obligated to use our gift? Why are we to give our very best effort to the building of the church?**
4. **Read Romans 12:6-8. If you have studied the spiritual gifts, taken an assessment or had someone tell you, share with the group what you think might be your spiritual gift(s). Let others in the group affirm what they think might be your gift. (Our intent is not to get into a detailed discussion about the gifts themselves. There will be an assessment tool on-line this week at Grace360.org, under Grace radio. Later in March there will be a special class called "Jump Start." This class looks at both natural bents and spiritual gifts.)**
5. **What do you think it means in verse 6 to exercise your gift "according to the grace given to each of us" and "in accordance with your faith?" (Notice this echoes the same phrase in verse 3.)**
6. **Matt gives two boundaries that God wants our gifts to be used 1) Humility in verse 3 and 2) Love in verse 9. Why are these two boundaries important? How do they provide the proper perspective for gifts to be used to build the body? God has given us adequate talent in our congregation to build a great church but what will derail it is self-interest and personal pride. How have you seen this to be true? How have you contributed to or been complacent about dis-unity in the body or been passive to engaging your gift to build the church?**
7. **Read Paul's prayer in Romans 15:5-6 and Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-24. Use the concepts of these prayers to pray for one another and for our church.**