June 13, 2010

Finding My Ministry

Romans 12:1-8

Finding the right "fit"… what is your clothes shopping method?

- Just buy it and take it home, if it doesn't fit, I can return it
- Take someone with me, get their opinion as I try it on
- Take my spouse, let them pick out stuff for me
- Send my spouse, I wear whatever they bring home
- Try on 10 things before deciding on one
- Shop alone and make my own decision
- Order off the internet or a catalog

Each of us has a method to find the right fit for clothes. Each of us has a personal way to find what fits us in ministry.

For many, church is something they 'go to', but not something they become. Church is not a place, but a group of believers with common purpose. What is the common purpose of WCC? Why do some folks settle for going to church without becoming a part of its ministry? If your Christian life were a football game would you be in the game, or on the sidelines watching and cheering, at the mall, or home watching the TV?

Have you ever thought you were good at something, and later discovered that you were not? What made you change your mind?

1. Romans 12:1. Have you ever sacrificed for Jesus? What will you do today to be more *holy and pleasing to God?* KJV calls *spiritual worship—reasonable service.* Is there a difference?
2. 12:2. Is there not a lot of pressure to *conform* to this world's values, fashions, fads, politics. What is the agent for transformation? How is YOUR mind being transformed? What questions do you have about God's will for your life?
3. 12:3. Have you ever thought of *yourself more highly than you ought?* What was the result? How do you avoid doing this? How do you avoid thinking too low of yourself?
4. 12:4-5. Here's a relatively new thought. We belong to one another. How comfortable are you with the concept that you belong to every other believer? What does that imply about your priorities?
5. 12:6-8. Each of us is supposed to actually use our gift(s). How are you doing at using your spiritual gifts? Should you be able to say, "Well, I don't know what my gift is; how can I use something I know nothing about?"
6. 1Cor 12:21-26. What is Paul really trying to emphasize with this illustration of body parts? Do we ever behave in such a way as to say, "I don't need you" to another part of the body of Christ? Do you treat those who seem *less honorable* with the same respect God does? Why? How can you express that respect? Paul says there should be *no division.* How is that achievable? Do you really *suffer* along with another member of the body when they suffer? Which is easier for you: To suffer alongside another suffering member, or to rejoice when they receive special honor?

7. What is a *sacrifice of praise?* What are some good things you can do for others? We teach our children to *share.* Are we any better at sharing than a toddler? How do the commands of this verse help us find our place in ministry?

When asked or challenged to serve in the Kingdom, what is the first response of many Christians? If you were the one doing the asking, what response would you prefer to hear?

Summary:

What are you currently doing to 'renew you mind'? Is it working?

At WCC, is there a real sense that every member belongs to every other member? How well do the members work together to use their gifts? What could be done to improve that working together?

How do (or could) you use your gifts within WCC? What holds you back from using them more fully?

Do you need some assistance to discover your spiritual gift(s), or in finding a way to utilize them at WCC? Where would you go to find such assistance? How would *you* go about getting integrated into the ministry of WCC?