

Discovering God's Design

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Week 1: You were made for a Purpose

I. Introduction: Why are you here?

II. God's purpose for your life

1. God created you for relationship with Him

2. God designed you for a specific life task

- a. God created you for a purpose Eph. 2:10
- b. God designed you for a task Ps. 139:13-16

3. Can you become anything you want?

- The deterministic model –
- The developmental model –
- The design model –

4. God's sovereign preparation

- a. David
- b. Esther
- c. Paul
- d. Ordinary people too!

5. Your divine job description

- God has sovereignty prepared you for the role He has chosen for you
- Every believer has a role to play in the Body
- The way that God has wired you is a big clue to your divine job description

III. Discovering your design

1. What is your SHAPE?

(The concept of SHAPE was developed by Rick Warren)

- Spiritual gifts
- Hear
- Abilities
- Personality
- Experiences

2. Course introduction

(See course syllabus)

Assignment: Read SHAPE chapters 1-2
Complete the Spiritual Gifts Profile in Uniquely You (pp. 2-7)

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Week 2: Grace Gifts</h2>

Romans 12:4-6 " For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly. . ."

I. What are spiritual gifts?	1 Cor. 12:4-7
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1. A definition of spiritual gifts

Definition: Spiritual gifts are a supernatural God-given abilities for serving Him.

- They are supernatural, not _____
- They are given by God, not _____
..they are "grace-gifts"
- They given for use in serving God, not _____

2. What they are not

- Personality traits
- Natural talents
- Christian roles

3. The list of gifts

- There are many gifts mentioned or implied in Scripture: 1 Cor. 12, Rom. 12:3-8, Eph 4:11-16
- The exact list of gifts used on different surveys will vary somewhat
..some add craftsmanship, music, intercession, etc.
- The survey questions are based on the gift definitions used by the author, so results may vary from one survey to another

4. Who has a spiritual gift?

*1 Corinthians 12:7 "But **to each one** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

- Only Christians have spiritual gifts
- Every Christian has as least one spiritual gift
- Spiritual gifts are distributed by God as He wishes (1 Cor. 12:11)
- Spiritual gifts need to be discovered and developed

II. The Function of Spiritual Gifts

1. Varieties of gifts (see 1 Cor. 12)

- There are many different gifts, and no one has more than a few
- You are needed: the gifts that you have are important to the healthy operation of the Body of Christ
- You need others: you need the ministry of others who have gifts that differ from your own

2. You are unique

- Your personality and spiritual gifts are part of the way God has made you
- Since God is sovereign, He designed you to fit the plan that He has for your life
- Understanding God's design helps you to discover your spiritual "job description"
- Your unique contribution is important to the overall health of the Body of Christ, the church

3. A servant heart

- Spiritual gifts are given in order to enable you to minister to others and glorify God
- The goal is service, not self-fulfillment
- However, it can be very rewarding to serve God using the gifts that He has given to you
- Occasionally we may need to "fill in" and serve in an area in which we are not particularly gifted

III. How to Discover your Spiritual Gifts

1. Spiritual gifts surveys

- A spiritual gifts survey is one tool to help you discover your spiritual gifts
- Since the survey is based on your experiences, the more experience you have in ministry the more accurate the results will be
- If you haven't tried very many ministries, don't worry! You should consider the survey results to be a preliminary idea of what your gifts might be

2. Other ways to discover your spiritual gifts

- Passion: consider what God has given you a passion to do for Him
- Confirmation: do others confirm that you have certain gifts? You can ask a few close friends to fill out a survey on you to evaluate your spiritual gifts
- Results: in which areas of ministry has God given you the ability to be especially effective?

3. Gift discovery plan

- Pray for God's direction and ask Him to give you a heart for serving others
- Learn about the different spiritual gifts
- Take a gifts survey to get an idea of what your gifts might be
- Try out the gifts in serving others
- Seek feedback and confirmation from those who know you
- Evaluate the results to see where you are effective

4. Groups of spiritual gifts

- "Gift mix"
- "Gift cluster"

5. Cautions about spiritual gifts

- Avoid "gift envy"
- Avoid "gift projection"

Next week: Personality

<p>Assignment: Read SHAPE chapters 3-4 Complete personality test in Uniquely You (pp. 8-17)</p>

Week 3: Personality Check

I. Understanding personality

1. We are not the same

- we usually start out in life assuming that other people are pretty much the same as we are
- we have many things in common, but also important differences
- our personality is part of who God made us
- many struggles in relationships are due to a failure to understand different behavioral styles

2. What is personality?

- personality vs. temperament
- temperament is the foundation on which personality is built
- “personality type” is often used as a synonym for temperament

3. What is temperament?

Temperament is “your unique, God-given (inborn) behavior style” (Malphurs)

- temperament is **inborn**
- temperament concerns **behavior**
- temperament focuses on inborn behavioral **tendencies** or **traits**
- the behavior can be motivated by **needs** or **values**

4. The benefits of understanding temperament

- we can understand the way that God created us
- we can find the best fit for work and ministry
- we can learn how to relate effectively to people with different temperaments
- we can learn to appreciate and value those whose temperaments differ from our own

II. Hippocrates’ four types

- Hippocrates (c. 460-370 BC) was the father of modern medicine
- he was born during the time of Nehemiah and Ezra, which was about 20 years after Confucius died (479)
- he was a contemporary of Socrates (469-399)
- he identified four personality types: **sanguine, choleric, melancholy, phlegmatic**

- he theorized that these types resulted from the predominance of one of four bodily fluids: blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile
- his explanation was completely wrong, but his observation of the four types has stood the test of time

III. DISC

1. Origins

- Developed by William Marston in the 1920s and 1930s. He published *Emotions of Normal People* in 1928.
- he identified four types
 - Dominance
 - Influencing
 - Steadiness
 - Compliance

(see *Uniquely You* p. 13 for descriptions)

2. Two dimensions

Uniquely You (p. 13):

- Active/Outgoing vs. Passive/Reserved
- Task vs. People

Voges and Braund (p. 47):

- Focus on change and activity vs. maintenance and accommodation
- Emphasizes Tasks & results vs. Ideas & people

3. Correspondence with Hippocrates' types

<u>Hippocrates</u>	<u>DISC</u>
Choleric	Dominance
Sanguine	Influencing
Phlegmatic	Steadiness
Melancholy	Compliance

4. Combinations

Primary/Secondary/Tertiary (e.g. S/I or C/I/S)
only use points **above** the line in graph 1 or 2

5. Examples from the Bible

Paul: D
Peter: I
Abraham: S
Moses: C

IV. Myers-Briggs

1. Overview

- the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was created by Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter, Isabel Briggs Myers during WW II
- the first edition of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was published in 1962
- David Keirsey created the Keirsey Temperament Sorter based on the MBTI. Many “Myers-Briggs” tests are actually KTS tests.
- there is a huge amount of information available on line about these two tests

2. The MBTI measures our behavioral tendencies in four areas of life

- Focus
Extroversion: focus attention on the outer world; energized by people
Introversion: focus attention on the inner world; energized by ideas
- Perception: how we gather information
Sensing: gathering information through the five senses; hands-on
intuition: gather information through intuition; visionary
- How we process information or make decisions
Thinking: decisions based on logic and objective analysis
Feeling: decisions based on personal values and judgments
- Preferred mode for acting in the outer world
Judging: a planned, organized approach; like closure
Perceiving: adaptable and spontaneous; don't like quick decisions

3. There are 16 possible types

- The 16 types are not evenly distributed in the population. The most common is ISFJ (13.8%) and the least common is ENTJ (1.8%) (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myers-Briggs_Type_Indicator for a list)
- each type has a primary, secondary and tertiary function
- these functions are gradually developed during different stages of life

V. Summary

1. Other tests

SHAPE uses questions in two categories

- how we relate to others
- how we relate to opportunities

2. Cautions about studying types

- these tests are only one indicator of what your personality type might be
- people do not fit neatly into 4 (or 16) categories
- we should recognize general tendencies but not put people in a box

Assignment: Read SHAPE chapters 5-6
Complete the MyType personality test on Facebook

For further reading:

Understanding How Others Misunderstand You by Ken Voges and Ron Braund (a Christian approach to DISC)

Please Understand Me by David Keirsey (Myers-Briggs/Keirsey Temperament Sorter)

Type Talk by Otto Kroeger and Janet M. Thuesen (Myers-Briggs)

Week 4: The Rest of your SHAPE

I. Hheart

1. What is passion?

“Passion is a God-given capacity to attach ourselves emotionally to something or someone (people, a cause, and idea, or an area of ministry) over an extended period of time to meet a need.” [Aubrey Malphurs, p. 52]

2. Examples of passion

- Apollos (Acts 18:25)
- Paul (Rom. 1:14-16; 15:20)

3. How to identify your passions

- What drives you?
- Whom do you care about?
- What needs will you meet?
- What cause will you champion?
- What dream will you fulfill?

4. Use your passions to glorify God

- God wants us to be passionate about serving Him (Rom. 12:11)
- Not every passion is from God—we must discern those desires that are put into our hearts by God
- Our passions must be submitted to God and under His control
- Our passions must be in accord with God’s passions

II. Abilities

What are the things that you love to do? How can you use them for God?

1. Your abilities are from God

- we each have many natural abilities
- natural abilities, like spiritual gifts, are from God

2. How to use your abilities for God

- take a realistic look at the abilities that God has given to you
- surrender your abilities to God and put them under His control
- look for opportunities to use your abilities to glorify God

3. God and your career

We often use our abilities in our careers

- serving God **through** your career
- serving God **within** your career
- serving God **along side** of your career

III. Experiences

1. God is sovereign

- things don't happen to us by accident (Rom. 8:28)
- God uses our experiences, both good and bad, to shape us for the role He has for us
- Examples: Joseph, Moses, Paul
- God allows, but does not cause, the evil we encounter in life

2. What about negative experiences?

- God uses both positive and negative experiences
- often negative experiences teach us the most powerful lessons
- especially terrible experiences might need to be followed by a time of healing and restoration
- once we receive God's comfort, we can comfort others who are suffering in a similar way (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

3. How to use your experiences for God

- reflect on key experiences in your life, both good and bad, using Scripture to guide your understanding
- ask God to show you what He might want to teach you through your experiences
- in the case of negative experiences, seek healing and restoration
- submit your experiences to God so that He can use them
- allow the Holy Spirit to work through your experiences to bless others

<p>Assignment: Read SHAPE chapter 7 Complete the Serving Sweet Spot profile</p>

How to complete the Serving Sweet Spot profile:

- You will first need obtain a code and set up an account at <http://www.servingcentral.com/code> using the textbook's ISBN number
- Then go to <http://servingcentral.com/assessment/> to take the assessment
- **Print out** the SHAPE profile and bring it to class

Week 5: The Most Important Thing

I. It's not about you

1. God's design

- God designed you to fulfill His purpose for your life
- Your SHAPE is uniquely formed by God to do the things He has called you to do
- our greatest sense of significance and satisfaction will come as we fulfill God's purpose for our lives

2. Your goals vs. God's goals

- secular "self-help" books offer to help us achieve our goals and feel good about ourselves
- our goal in understanding our SHAPE is to discover how we can best glorify God by our lives
- instead of being self-centered we need to be God-centered

II. Surrender is required

1. God calls us to surrender to Him

- God calls us to surrender everything to Him (Rom. 12:1-2)
"¹ 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." (Rom. 12:1-2, ESV)
- instead of going to God with our list of options, we need to lay all that we are on the altar before Him (cf. quote in SHAPE p. 118)
- as we "run" after Him, we need to lay aside everything that slows us down
"¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:1-2, ESV)

2. How does surrender happen?

- surrender requires faith (trust)
- surrender is a decision, but transformation is a process
- the first time decision to surrender everything to God is a key turning point in your Christian life
- there will be additional moments of surrender when you need to re-confirm and deepen that commitment
- transformation is an ongoing process, but surrender is the first step

3. What to give to God

- Give God your strengths
- Give God your weaknesses
- Give God your dreams
- Give God your fears
- Give God your wounds
- Give God your guilt and shame

III. An adventure with God

1. Relationship with God

- using your SHAPE to serve God isn't something that you can do on your own ..really, it is God working **through** you to impact others
- your spiritual life provides the context and the foundation for serving God
- it is essential that you maintain a healthy spiritual life if you want to be effective in ministry
- ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit operates on a different level than ministry done merely by our own abilities

2. A prayer of surrender

- Psalm 139 includes a beautiful prayer for God's work in our lives:
*²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Psalm 139:23–24, ESV)*
- if you have never prayed a prayer like this, consider doing so this week

Assignment: Read SHAPE chapter 8

II. Why should I do "ministry"?

1. God has created us to serve Him

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."

2. It is the natural result of our love for God

John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

3. It is necessary for the edification of the Body

1 Corinthians 12:7 "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

4. It is our responsibility given by God

- The question is not _____ you should serve, but _____ you should serve!
- Serving God in the Body is a normal part of the Christian life

5. Barriers to serving

- Self-centeredness, selfishness, don't care for others
- A weak spiritual life / poor relationship with God
- Feeling inadequate / don't have anything to offer
- Lack of preparation or training

III. The role of the pastor

Eph. 4:11-16

1. Christ's gift to the church (4:7, 11)

2. The job of the spiritual leaders (4:12)

3. The job of the "saints" (4:12)

4. The ultimate goal (4:12-16)

Assignment: Read SHAPE chapters 9-10