

Shaped for Significance

“You (God) created every part of me. You put me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous.” Psalm 139:14

“Your hands formed and shaped me.” Job 10:8

What God says about me:

I am _____

I am _____

I was _____ for a purpose!

The more you _____ in the Bible, the easier it is for God to talk to you.

The Five Parts of My God-Given S.H.A.P.E.

S _____

“...each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that”. I Corinthians 7:7

Every Christian is called to serve . . . and your gift indicates how you are to serve God.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works in all of them.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

H _____

“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose...” Rev. 17:17

“For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!” Philippians 2:13

A _____

There are different abilities to perform service ...” I Corinthians 12:6

“I (God) have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.” Exodus 31:3

“...our competence comes from God.” 2 Corinthians 3:5

P _____

“Your life is shaped by your thoughts.” Proverbs 4:23

E _____

“And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.” Romans 8:28

My shape is: inter-related . . . fixed . . . irrepressible.

My shape impacts _____ area of my life!

“By the grace of God I am what I am.” I Corinthians 15:10

Shaped for Significance

(Expanded notes)

You don't have to travel too far around the world to discover that God loves variety. He has made all shapes, sizes, colors, intensities!

- incredible variety
- over 300,000 species of beetles
- 18 million unique snowflakes in one cubic foot of snow

God loves variety in people too!!!

-have you waited for an airplane at Ontario or LAX and watched the parade of peculiar people?

God loves variety! God made each of those people.

"You (God) created every part of me. You put me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous." Psalm 139:14

"Your hands formed and shaped me." Job 10:8

What God says about me: (Three foundational truths)

I am UNIQUE

- nobody like you
- no carbon copies/the mold was broken
- unique prints: finger, foot, voice

Why? So you will know how special you are . . . that you matter to God!!

I am WONDERFULLY COMPLEX

Many times we are a mystery to ourselves. "Why in the world did I do that?", say that?", or feel like this?"

Have you ever been in a group and felt something entirely different? (What's wrong with me?)

-NOTHING! You are just unique.

We may not know why we think, feel, and do things, . . . But God knows!

I was SHAPED for a purpose!

God created everything in the world for a purpose.

You were designed by GOD.

You were God's idea . . . not a mistake.

-you were planned before birth.

Purposefully, personally, and orderly planned.

Your uniqueness is what God wants you to offer to the world.

The Five Parts of My God-Given S.H.A.P.E.

Your SHAPE affects every area of your life: relationships, career, finances, enjoyment, hobbies, and recreation.

The Bible says that you are a combination of 5 different factors.

S: Spiritual Gifts

"...each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that"

1 Corinthians 7:7

When you are born physically, you are given physical abilities: taste, touch, sight, feel, hearing.

When born spiritually, God gives you some spiritual abilities (gifts) to serve Him.

1. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.
2. Given at the moment of salvation
 - a. When you become a Christian, God give you a new purpose
 - b. God gives you the ability to accomplish it.
3. God gives spiritual gifts sovereignly (God chooses)
4. Given by grace, not earned
5. 20 examples in the Bible

Whenever you do something well, and you enjoy it, you are demonstrating giftedness!

Our spiritual gifts show God's plan for our lives:

What should be my ministry

How should I spend my time

Where should I focus my life

Every Christian is called to serve . . . and your spiritual gift tell how you are to serve God.

Teaching – be a teacher

Organizing – be an organizer

Music – be in music

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works in all of them." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Every gift is unique!! You are not to copy other people's spiritual gift. (Temptation of new believers)

This explains why Christians who believe the same thing, see things differently.

-we tend to emphasize what we are gifted in.

-If you are gifted in evangelism, all you can think about is reaching people for Christ!

-The other person says, "NO, we need to help the Christians we've got . . . grow!"

This is why church groups break up . . .we focus on or emphasize a certain gift:

Tongues, Evangelism, Teaching, Mercy (social ministries)

THEY ARE ALL IMPORTANT!

Your gifts show God's plan for YOUR life!

How to discover your spiritual gifts:

Examine and Experiment

Examine

What have I enjoyed?

Where have people been impacted?

What has God blessed?

Where have I seen results?

What have others seen in you?

Experiment

If you have never been involved in ministry, you will never know your gifts. It's not a spectator thing.

If you do not have any type of service to look back on (and examine), you will have to depend on the 2nd method: experimenting.

Try some, find your niche.

-what is enjoyable for you? What do you do well?

H: Heart

"God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose..." Rev. 17:17

"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!" Philippians 2:13

It is what drives you . . . motivates you.

Would you agree that there are things you are deeply interested and other things you couldn't care less about?

-revealing your heart.

What do I really love to do? What do I dream about?

When I am on the beach in Maui relaxing, what does my mind automatically turn to?

These are your inborn interests!! They are not by accident.

A: Ability

There are different abilities to perform service ...” I Corinthians 12:6

“I (God) have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.” Exodus 31:3

“...our competence comes from God.” 2 Corinthians 3:5

Talents and skills.

We all have abilities (although we may not be aware of them).

Researchers have shown that the average person has between 500-700 different kinds of abilities.

God says that this is part of the way He has shaped us.

Computers, Mechanical, Math, Language, Writing, Speaking, Gardening, Creativity, Music, Engineering, Entertaining, Cooking, Graphic Arts, Sports
These are not by accident!!!

P: Personality

“Your life is shaped by your thoughts.” Proverbs 4:23

Personality: refers to three things.

1. The way you act
2. The way you feel
3. The way you think

The root of these is the way you THINK.

-it determines how you feel.

-which determines the way you act.

The Bible says that the root of your personality is your thought life. Read Proverbs 4:23

We all know that personality is complex.

-researchers say 18,000 different personality traits

-put these in combinations . . .infinite

Years ago, there used to be a big debate in the field of psychology: Is personality something that you are born with, or something that is acquired through environment (Nature or Nurture?). Not a question anymore. Study after study has shown that the moment a child is born, they already have a set pattern of some personality characteristics . . .long before any environment affects them from the outside world.

Any parent of more than 2 children knows this!

Some babies come into the world cooing, complacent, smiling. Other babies come into the world chomping on a cigar, spitting nails.

God created you with personality traits: not by accident!

Some of us are high strung. Others, wimps! Quick tempers, slow burns. Some love to be around people, others keep to themselves.

All these quirks must be under control of the Holy Spirit. Not abused.

E: Experience

“And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.” Romans 8:28

You have been shaped by many experiences: some by your choice, some were out of your control.

1. Family/Relational experiences. “You are just like your mom”
2. Educational experiences: schools, books, seminars and trainings
3. Spiritual experiences: Meaningful times w/God, times of commitment, times of crisis
4. Vocational experiences: career and job
5. Painful experiences: Story of Joseph
 - a. Betrayed by brothers
 - b. Sold into slavery
 - c. Taken to a foreign country
 - d. Sold to a master
 - e. Falsely accused of rape
 - f. Put into prison

Everything went wrong during the first half of his life.

At the end of his life, *“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.”* Genesis 50:20

God does not want to waste any experience in your life.

-even the painful ones, even when you were victimized (molested, rape, abused, divorced, child died)

My shape impacts EVERY area of my life!

“By the grace of God I am what I am.” I Corinthians 15:10