



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

THE BIG PICTURE: PUTTING OUR GIFTS INTO PERSPECTIVE

Gifts are not about me: the tendency today is to quickly focus on ourselves when it comes to spiritual gifts. Before we wrestle individually on how the gifts fit into our life we must understand how they fit into God's overall plan.

Gifts are first about God and His purposes in the world: the Bible teaches that all things (including you and me) were created for His glory (cf. Isaiah 43:7).

God's overarching purpose in this world is to unite all things in heaven and on earth together under Christ (cf Eph 1:10; Col 1:20).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, redeemed us through His death, and has placed us into His body, the church, to carry on His saving purposes to all people.

THE TWO PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH: WHY WE EXIST

Reach - reaching those who don't know Christ. (1 Pe 2:12; Mt 28:19-20) The church's primary role in relation to the world is to share the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Grow - growing those who do know Christ. Gifts bring maturity and stability to our church family (Ephesians 4:11-13; Col 1:28).

Spiritual gifts are tools not trophies - they become the tools which God gives His people to build up the body so that individually and together we grow more like Christ and go out as joyful witnesses sharing and living the good news reaching those who don't know Him.