

Influence Ministries

I LOVE MY CHURCH

LESSON 3

TITLE: SERVING IN THE CHURCH.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7 ERV

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit.

⁵ There are different ways to serve, but we serve the same Lord.

⁶ And there are different ways that God works in people, but it is the same God who works in all of us to do everything.

⁷ Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person. The Spirit gives this to each one to help others.

What do superheroes and Christmas presents have to do with a church?

That's the question I want to answer today as we continue in our I Love My Church series.

The implications of the answer to this question for our church family are bigger than you can imagine.

Superheroes. When you were growing up, did you have a favorite superhero?

You can say this is all kids 'stuff, but millions of dollars in profits are generated from superheroes movies.

There is something about superheroes that we are fascinated with.

The definition of "superhero" in Webster's dictionary: "a fictional hero having extraordinary or superhuman powers; an exceptionally skillful or successful person."

A superhero is someone who utilizes his or her abilities in a specific context to help in a specific way.

In fact, I think part of loving your church is being the hero God has made you to be.

You Have Superpowers: Spiritual Gifts and natural gifts.

You have been given an amazing ability to be used by God!

That is incredibly exciting.

Experiment in serving. Get involved in the church somewhere.

Ask others about their involvement and serving the church.

Check your energy level and your availability. Don't write off serving and contributing as "I'm too busy".

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Verizon's new slogan: "Right plan, wrong network".

What about you serving in the church... Right gift, wrong setting".

Not motivated, not feeling it, not passionate? It's time to find you the right setting.

Whatever your gift(s) are, they were supernaturally given to you by God.

Your gift was not given to you for you!

Your gifts were given to you to help others, to serve others, to benefit others.

They weren't given for you and your enjoyment.

This should be a lesson in both humility and responsibility for us.

Humility because the gift is not about us, but responsibility because God knew someone else would need our help, would need to experience God working through our gifts to minister to them.

Remember ... to just have power isn't what makes a hero. There must be action.

This church needs you.

This neighborhood needs you.

This city/community needs you.

Not because they need you, but because they need God.

And God in His wisdom and plan has decided that He would empower us with the ability to serve one another and the world around us.

We have a children's ministry that needs people to model Jesus to them.

We have a student ministry that needs people to model Jesus to them, befriend them, and mentor them.

Young adults, couples, that need the gifts that God gave you to be in action and in motion.

Can you imagine what our church would be like if everyone was flowing in their gifting?

What do superheroes and Christmas presents have to do with a church?

This is what I opened with.

So, let's switch gears. Christmas presents.

Who doesn't like opening Christmas presents? I'll tell you who—the Grinch!

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Grinches don't like opening Christmas presents—everyone else does.

If you're not too excited about opening Christmas presents, well, maybe we'll get a Grinch support group going on.

Picture being six years old, well, imagine what it would be like to come down and see that big present waiting for you.

Just waiting to be opened, just waiting to be discovered, just waiting to be enjoyed and used and played with.

And then picture looking at it, shrugging your shoulders, saying "eh," and then walking back upstairs ... never opening the gift.

There would be something wrong with that, wouldn't there be?

When you're given a gift, you open the gift! You don't leave it sitting there!

What do superheroes and Christmas presents have to do with a church?

If you are a child of God who is not utilizing the gifts that God has given you for the betterment of the church and community, then you are like a Christmas present that's ignored and unopened.

You are walking up to the gift that God has given you, shrugging your shoulders, saying "eh," and then walking away.

And that's not how it is supposed to be!

Here's my final question: Why did God give you for our church?

Most of the time we ask what we can get out of church.

Wrong question. Why did God give this community the gift of you?

Don't be an unopened gift. Discover the gifting God has empowered you with.

Be the gift that you are — serve this church and this community the way God made you to with the gifts He's given you.