

**Life Church Message 2012-01-22 - Break Out Of The World's Mold and Into
God's 4**

- **Break Out Of The World's Mold and Into God's - (Part 4)**
Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday January 22, 2012
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- **New Material**
 - **Preparation**
 - **Break Out Of The World's Mold and Into God's. - (Part 4)**
 - **Preparation - Romans 12:1-8**
 - **Standing Issues**
 - From a word Bishop gave me:
 - Make sure people do something with God's message.
 - Make it plain:
 - Use accessible language.
 - Use modern day parables based on every day occurrences:
 - Sitting at a stop light
 - Driving through a green light
 - Approaching a yellow light
 - Being cut off in traffic
 - Going shopping
 - Going to a mall
 - Going to school; sitting in class
 - Going to work; sitting in your office;
 - Keep it simple.
 - Use illustrations of truth out of my own experience.
 - Impart faith to obey the Word and receive God's promises.
- **Introduction**
 - Welcome to another service at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
 - Welcome Cards -
 - “I want to call your attention to the Welcome Card that you were given on your way into the auditorium”
 - These cards do two things for us:
 - They help us get to know our new visitors better.
 - They also give anyone (visitors or members) a chance to express a need or to give us feedback.
 - By filling it out you will help us to better serve you.
 - We're going to provide time for you to complete the cards at the end of our service, but we encourage you to start filling them out now.
 - **Please use this card:**
 - if you're a **first time visitor** or if you've **never** filled one out

before,

- to tell us about a **decision you made** today,
- to ask us for more information, or to give us **feedback**.

Please include your contact information unless we already have it. At the **end of service** we'll ask you to complete the card and then place it in the designated box or give it to someone from our staff on your way out.

- Transition
 - We're following up on our discussion of Romans 12:1-8.
 - After the teaching we'll hear from Leadership Team members about how they discovered and developed some of these gifts in their own lives.
 - We will break up into small groups to discuss our gifts.
 - We will close in prayer and move on to offering and closing worship.
- **Read the Passage - Romans 12:1-2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- **Exegetical Idea**

In view of God's mercy, let God rather than the world shape you so that you will be able to verify his will.
- **What does this mean?**
 - God had been merciful to the gentiles in the Roman church in that they received the gospel early as a result of the disobedience of the Jews. He had been merciful the Jews in the Roman church in that they were a remnant chosen by grace.
 - Let God shape you:
 - Offer your bodies as living sacrifices - a lifetime of obedience.
 - Obedience is the most important form of worship. - 1Sam 15
 - Don't conform to the world - don't let it press you into its mold.
 - Renewing your mind (see Rom. 8) will transform you.
 - This will enable you to test (approve, verify, confirm) God's will.
 - Refusing to believe the truth leads to delusion. - Isa 29:1-16; 2Thes 2:9-12
 - Test your thoughts and ideas against God's Word (details and patterns).

- **Matthew 6:31-34** Seek the Kingdom first, not God.
 "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
- Seeking God's Kingdom first means more than just carrying out your church tradition.
- You can't just substitute your tradition for the words "his Kingdom".
- We don't go to church - the church comes together.
- Present and explain the "Bob" diagram.
 - "The Relational Way" by M. Scott Boren - pp 72 - 75
 - Do you sell yourself to the higher bidder?
 - "Rocklyn - you're not motivated by money are you?"
- Let God simplify and manage your relational network.
 - Raising our children - a tremendous opportunity.
 - Form partnerships for extracurricular enrichment.
 - Form partnerships for sports.
 - Form partnerships with schools.
 - Partner for fitness.
 - Partner for community involvement.
- **Homiletical Idea:**
 Break out of the world's mold and into God's.
- **Read the Passage - Romans 12:3-8**
 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.
- **What does this mean?**
 - Spiritual Gifts
 - What is a spiritual gift?
<http://mintools.com/gifts2.htm>

A Spiritual Gift is a special divine empowerment bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish a given ministry God's way according to His grace and discernment to be used within the context of the Body of Christ.

- Romans 12:3-8 - Marilyn Hickey's motivational gifts illustration
 - Charismata are "grace things"
 - You don't have to work to manifest them (although work and planning may improve their impact) - they flow out of who you are.
- Describe spiritual gifts:
 - **Romans 12:3-8** gifts = charismata (grace things)
 - Prophesying
 - Serving
 - Teaching
 - Encouraging others
 - Contributing to the needs of others
 - Leadership
 - Showing mercy
 - **1Corinthians 12:1-11**: spirituals = pneumatikoi; gifts = charismata
Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.
You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
There are different kinds of 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 all of them in all men.
Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.
 - **Ephesians 4:1-16**: gifts = doma
As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train**

and gave gifts to men.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) **It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- **What difference does it make? So What?**

- Explore Romans 12 - 15 Further
 - Exegetical Outline:
 - Offer your bodies as living sacrifices and be transformed
 - Living sacrifices in our church life
 - Living sacrifices in our interpersonal interactions
 - Living sacrifices in our relationship with government
 - Living sacrifices in our relationship with Christians of weak faith
 - Why does Paul deal with the implications for our church life first? Because the commitment to body life is foundational.
 - All of this has implications for how we function in the body of Christ.
- Lists of spiritual gifts:
 - **Romans 12:3-8** gifts = charismata (grace things)
 - Prophecy
 - Serving
 - Teaching
 - Encouraging others
 - Contributing to the needs of others
 - Leadership
 - Showing mercy
- Make your gifts available to the church.
 - Our Mission:

Our mission is to teach people to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame, to follow him together as his family, **to function together as his body**, and to work together to expand his kingdom.
 - Romans 12 - Your gifts are needed:

- Consumer judgment - sometimes an organization is failing because your gift is missing.
- As we make our gifts available to one another Jesus is better able to express himself through us.
- Don't overlook the quiet gifts: encouragement, showing mercy
- The world tries to save its life; in the church we give ours away.
 - Trying to save your life results in losing it. - Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:23-25
 - The world tends towards self-promotion; in the church we think of ourselves soberly.
 - The Superman Myth reflects a deep seated desire of Americans.
 - The more special I try to be, the less special I become? The more I try to “blend in” to God’s agenda the more special I become?
 - Can I figure life out on my own without Jesus? Without the Church?
- You have a gift to offer to others:
 - We are one body and we belong to each other.
 - “Lord - how do you want me bless this person today?”
 - Rivers of living water are flowing out of you. - John 7:37-39
 - We’re developing a lifestyle of planting biblical communities and all of our members are potential planters.
 - Don't wait for your "designer prophecy"!

*"I hear the Lord saying, this is your **season** to step into your **destiny** and receive a **double portion**. It's time for you to start **living in the overflow** and experience true **breakthrough**. The **new anointing** that is upon you is an **apostolic/prophetic anointing**, and will produce a **fresh outpouring** of the Spirit everywhere you go. This **new level** is coming from an **open heaven** which will give you an **impartation** and a **mantle** to carry out your assignment. You will provide a **spiritual covering** to those under you, and they will receive the **latter rain**. The **shift** you are experiencing comes from God's **favor** on your life and will create an **atmosphere** for **miracles, abundance**, and will bring forth a **financial harvest**, just claim this for yourself and **sow a seed faith offering** into this ministry and receive it, says the Lord... Eekamushundah, SheaButter."*

Blessings,
Michael Dottin

- God wants to bless you!
 - Your gifts may provide channels of provision for you.
 - This won't work effectively unless you're plugged into the body.
 - God wants to give you the means to contain the blessing - your relational network - the church.
- Our focus is on developing the body - not a building.
 - When we operate in our gifts, we can be cheerful givers and cheerful workers. - 2Cor 9:6-7
- **Learn to recognize their gifts and make them available to the church.**
 - Panel discussion by Leadership Team.
 - Questions for Leadership Team members.
 - Break into small groups to discuss:
 - What are your spiritual gifts?
 - How should you be using them at Life Church?
 - In what ways does your lifestyle need to change so that your gifts become available to your brothers and sisters?
- **Conclusion**
 - Break out of the world's mold and into God's.
 - Let God reorganize your life around the Body of Christ.
 - Make your gifts available to the church.
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- **Altar Call / Welcome Cards / Communion ?**
 - Welcome Cards - refer to script
 - We're almost ready to close this portion of our service, but first we want to give you a chance to respond to what you've heard.
 - Earlier in the service we mentioned the welcome cards and we encouraged you to begin filling them out.
 - Right now we want you to complete your welcome card. We especially want you to use this card if:
 - if you're a first time visitor
 - if you've never filled one out before,

- if you want to tell us about a decision you made today,
- if you want to ask us for more information, or to give us feedback.
- Please be sure to include your up to date contact information unless we already have it.

- **MC & Worship Team continue with tithes, offerings, and worship**

- **Benediction - Numbers 6:24-26**

““The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

- **Men's Prayer**

- **Life Group Material**

- **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#)

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- **Romans 12:1-2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **Discussion Questions For Romans 12:1-2**

- Are you offering your body as a living sacrifice? Discuss.
- In what ways are you conformed to the pattern of this world?
- In what ways are you renewing your mind?
- In what ways have you been transformed?

- **Matthew 6:24-34**

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- **Discussion Questions For Romans 12:1-2**

- Have you been seeking God first, his Kingdom first, or neither? What's the difference? Discuss?
- Which do your relational networks reflect more - the priorities of God's Kingdom or the world's priorities? Discuss.
- Do your various activities leave you enough time for deep relationships with members of the congregation? Discuss?
- Are there ways in which you need to simplify your life? If so, how can your brothers and sisters help you?

- **Romans 12:3-8**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.**

- **Discussion Questions**

- What spiritual gift(s) do you believe you have?
- What spiritual gift(s) do others believe you have?
- What spiritual gift(s) would you like to learn more about?
- How should you be using your spiritual gifts at Life Church?
- In what ways does your lifestyle need to change so that your gifts become available to your brothers and sisters?

• **Scriptures For 1/22/2012 Life Church Sermon**

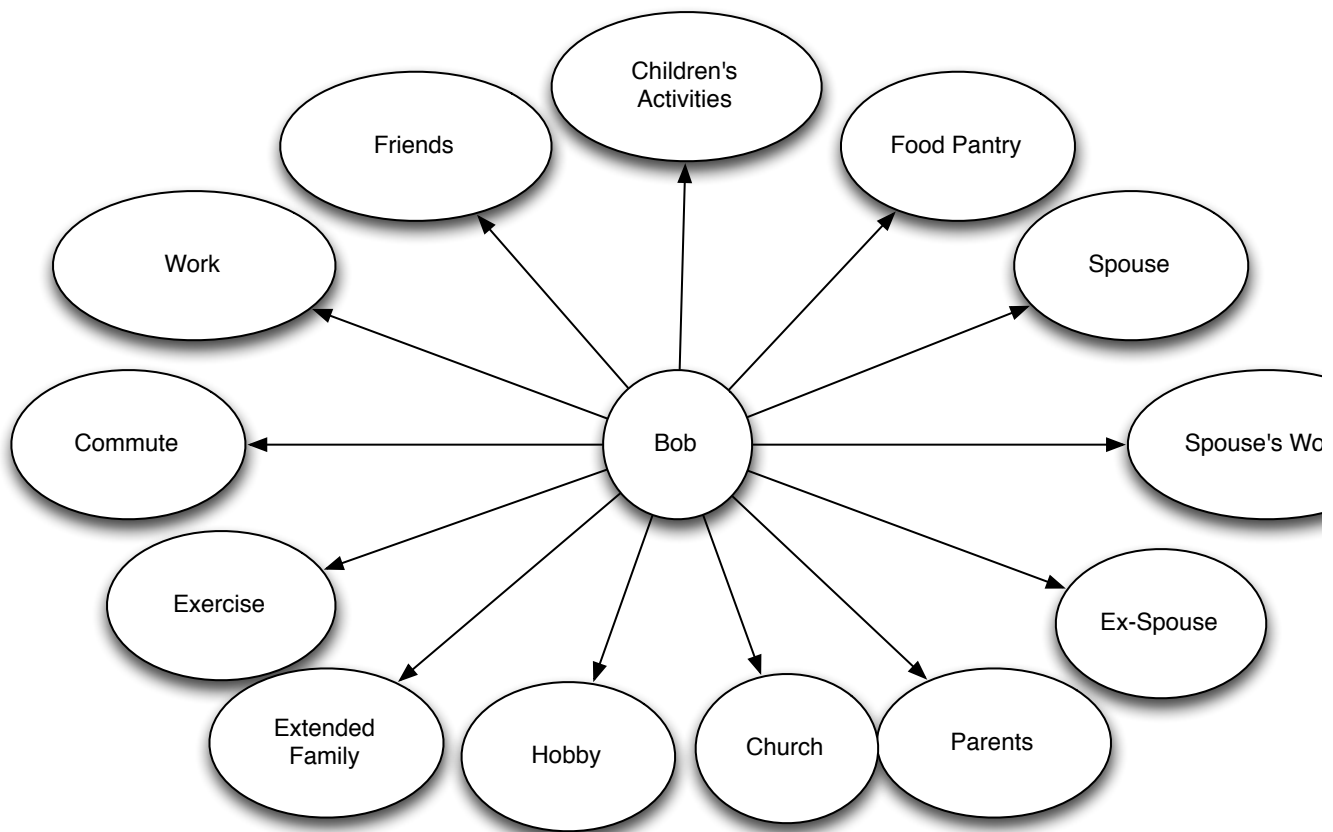
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Romans 12:1-2

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Matthew 6:31-34

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one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.**

1Corinthians 12:1-11

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Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Ephesians 4:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."** (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) **It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

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Discussion Questions:

- What are your spiritual gifts?
- How should you be using them at Life Church?
- In what ways does your lifestyle need to change so that your gifts become available to your brothers and sisters?

Life Church Mission Statement

- Our mission is to teach people:
 - to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
 - to follow him together as his family,
 - to function together as his body,
 - and to work together to expand his kingdom.

Understanding The Bible

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Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages for today's sermon at Life Church. We use mostly the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). Don't be alarmed - the passages are really from the Bible!

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then! **We believe that if you're reading an English translation of the Bible it ought to be up to date - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**

Life Church Web Site: <http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>