

We continue the fall sermon series, ***A Life That Counts***, with Dr. Baucom's sermon ***The Stewardship of Talent***.

1. If someone were to ask you to describe your gifts and talents, what would you say? Would you share them enthusiastically, with joy and pride, with hesitations and embarrassment?
 - Take a few moments and allow each member the opportunity to share what he or she understands to be his or her gifts and talents.

2. **Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.** Sit and reflect with this passage for about 10 minutes. What does this passage reveal *concerning* our gifts and talents?
 - What warning are we given in verse 3?
 - To whom do our talents and we belong according to verse 4 and 5?
 - What does Paul suggest we are we to do with the gifts we are given?
 - In verse 7, Paul indicates our diversity of gifts will not lead to divisions but to what? Why do you think this is true?

3. **Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:27-31.** Sit and reflect with these verses for about 10 minutes. **Reread them again** aloud, listening carefully to each word.
 - How can using our gifts in partnership with others help the body of Christ?
 - What if someone does not invest their gifts in the body; what effect might it have?

4. Read the following passages. Share with your IG what God has revealed to you about being a good steward of the gifts and talents that you have received.
 - **1 Corinthians 4:2**
 - **Matthew 22:37**
 - **1 Peter 4:10**
 - **Romans 12:3-8**
 - **Ephesians 3:19-22**

5. **Read 1 Corinthian 13.** Love is not a spiritual gift, but rather is listed among fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
 - Reflect on how you believe love might influence the way you use your gifts.
 - How might we see Love as a motivation in our use of our gifts?
 - Spend time reflecting on the characteristics of love in verses 4-7. How might these characteristics support you in sharing your gifts within the body of Christ?

6. Share with each other how you observe each other using your gifts and talents in the body of Christ here at Columbia.

7. Imagine if all group members used their gifts and talents. How would IGs be fulfilling their purpose and impacting the body of Christ at Columbia this time next year if:
 - You played guitar and opened and/or closed your IG in song?
 - You had the gift of administration and organized fun group activities or workdays for your IG?
 - You and a fellow IGER wanted to ignite passion for Jesus by telling people about our God through relationship, or invited neighbors and colleagues to join your IG?
 - What other gifts might be used to build authentic community?

Reflect on how you and your group can support each other in being stewards of your gifts and talents.