



# APPNOTES

**Date:** September 16-September 20,2019

**Series:** This Is Us

**Ephesians 4:11-13** Have you ever felt like you could conquer the world, envisioning yourself standing on top of a mountain? You're standing in the sun, arms stretched up to Heaven, singing Hallelujah. Then suddenly and without warning, this world's overwhelming chaos awakens you. We don't have to stand for that. We can stand on that mountaintop together as God intended. Our pastors, leaders of the church, will "equip people for works of service". They will lead us so that we can lead others to know Christ. Each one of us is gifted with something unique that we can use for the good of others. Let us, the church, be united as one. Sharing our talents. Every one of us is needed. Together we can "mature in the Lord". Together we can make a difference standing on top of that mountain!

**Romans 12:3-8** I've always found old stain glass windows intriguing. Different colors, mismatched shapes and sizes with imperfect edges. Together, those unique individual pieces create one beautiful picture. In today's passage, Paul uses the human body to illustrate how the church should function: many parts, each having a different function. God has blessed each of us with our own unique gift, wonderful in its own right. Neither less important nor better than anyone else's. But oh, so glorious when used and matched with others! We, as the church, are that stained-glass window. One piece of colored glass is pretty to look at, but by itself it cannot tell a story. But all the pieces together tell the beautiful story of God's grace and forgiveness. We all belong together, imperfect edges and all.

**Mark 10:35-45** Just as when Jesus walked this earth, there are those who feel as if they are privileged, flaunt their authority, and demand to be served. Jesus told His disciples that, if they wanted to be leaders, they must go and serve others. He then reminded them that even He, the Son of God, came to serve, not be served. Let us be reminded today of this very same teaching. We are not here to be served; we are here to serve. There are many ways to do that. Maybe you enjoy working with our youngest children. Maybe you have a way about you that makes people feel comfortable. Usher, teacher, musician – no spot on the Crew is less valuable than another. We've been given

a great responsibility - helping people find the way back to God - and you are vital to that mission. How can you serve our neighbors?

**Matthew 25:14-26** In this parable, a man entrusts three servants with his treasure before leaving for a long trip. He gave each one what fit their abilities. When the man returned, only one had not doubled their bags of silver because he had buried it in the ground. He claimed he was keeping it safe, afraid of losing it. But what good did that do? Not only did the servant himself lose out on reaping the harvest of his investments, no one else gained either.

What is the treasure God has entrusted in you? Are you investing it or hiding it? I challenge you to deposit your treasure and reap in the boundless benefits God will surely bless you with because of your faith in His promises.

**Acts 6:1-7** When a child is born, he brings his parents such joy, pride, and hope of the future. With that child comes many needs. Without careful handling, planning, shared responsibility, and thoughtful teaching, the child will not grow into a fulfilled adult. He needs to be taught how to take care of himself, how to interact with others, and how to develop good character. This is important: this child will become an adult who in turn bears more children to nourish and raise up. Just as a child, the church needs to flourish. We are the church and we need to carefully handle, plan, share responsibility, and thoughtfully teach one another. Every child and adult alike should hear the good news of Jesus. Each one of us has a part to play in helping that message reach the people around us. When we each do our part, the church will flourish.

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