



YOUR UNIQUE
CONTRIBUTION
IS IRREPLACEABLE

Your Unique Contribution is Irreplaceable

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12 *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸ But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

Introduction: Our view of ourselves may be that we are by comparison to others insignificant. That is not true! For example, a car's spark plug is small yet without it the engine fails. Or, the Key Stone to an arch. That one stone has been specifically chipped to fit perfectly between the top of two arches of which without it the entire archway would collapse.

There is no way through the wall without the keystone!

(Let's take a look at the illustration)

Why Pennsylvania is the Keystone State!

Both the spark plug and the keystone seem small but, absolutely essential.

However, we live in a culture that often values the loudest voice, the most visible gift, or the most dramatic contribution. This can lead to **two destructive responses:**

- 1. In ourselves: We can despise our own contribution**, deeming it too small or insignificant (**contempt for self**).
- 2. In others: We may envy or undervalue the contributions of others** because they are different from ours (**contempt for others**).

1. The temptation of contempt

- Today, we will see from God's Word that this spirit of contempt is a direct assault on God's design for His Church. He calls us to something radically different: a community where every life is investable and every contribution counts for eternity.

God has sovereignly and intentionally placed you in the Body of Christ not as an optional extra, but as an indispensable contributor. Your unique participation is the key to the health, growth, and God's divine investment in the world and Church.

A **Spirit of Contempt** (a feeling of dislike or disapproval and is usually accompanied by a sense of superiority) Where **to Despise** is a stronger word which is usually accompanied by a desire to distance oneself from the object that is hated. vs. God's Spirit of Unity!

1. DESPISE NOT THE DAY OF SMALL BEGINNINGS!

Zechariah 4:6 *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁷ Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it ⁸ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ⁹ The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that*

the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. ¹⁰ For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

2. TESTS, TEMPTATIONS, TRIBULATIONS, AND TRIALS FORGE THE DEEPLY EMBEDDED CONVICTIONS THAT CATAPULT OUR GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS – ex. Joseph
3. NO INTELLIGENT THIEF BREAKS INTO AN EMPTY WAREHOUSE
4. THE CRABOLOGY SYNDROME – AS ONE IS CLIMBING OUT OF THE BOILING POT THE OTHERS JOIN TOGETHER TO PULL HIM BACK IN!

(The heart issue behind devaluing others)

1 Corinthians 12:15-16: "If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body..."

Contempt is Rooted in Comparison: The foot compares itself to the hand and decides it's worthless. This is not humility; it's a rejection of the Creator's assignment.

Contempt Stifles Relationships: When we devalue someone's gift, we devalue *them*. We build walls instead of bridges, hindering the deep, trusting relationships the Holy Spirit wants to form.

Contempt Wastes Kingdom Investment: God has invested specific gifts, experiences, and passions in each person. To treat that investment as worthless is to call God a poor investor.

- God invested in you and expects a return

Matthew 25:14 NLT *"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver^[a] to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. ¹⁶ "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' ²¹ "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'^[b] ²² "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' ²³ "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'²⁴ "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' ²⁶ "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, ²⁷ why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' ²⁸ "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

2. God's design – every contribution counts!

“Listen to some testimonies!”

A. You Are Sovereignly Placed by God.

1 Corinthians 12:18 ***But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.***

Your place in the body is not an accident. It is a divine appointment. To disrespect your role is to question the wisdom of the Head, which is Christ.

B. You Are Uniquely Gifted for Significance

1 Corinthians 12:7 ***To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***

Romans 12:6-8 Lists varying gifts (prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy).

- None are for self; all are for the building up of others.
- Your contribution is the unique channel through which God's grace flows to the rest of us. **We need what you have.**

C. Your Participation Makes the Body Complete

1 Corinthians 12:17, 21 ***"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing?... The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you.'"***

The quiet intercessor is as vital as the dynamic preacher. The behind-the-scenes organizer is as crucial as the upfront welcomer. **We are incomplete without you.**

3. The Corporate Result: An Investable, Growing Body

The powerful outcome of valuing every contribution

A. Relationships Are Built on Mutual Value.

When we truly believe everyone has something essential to offer, we approach relationships with curiosity, not judgment. We seek to receive from them, creating a cycle of mutual encouragement and investment. ("I value what you have to offer, and you value what I have to offer.")

B. The Body Becomes Healthy and Investable.

Ephesians 4:16 ***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***

"Each part does its work" = lives are investable. When everyone operates in their gifting, the church becomes a low-risk, high-return environment for God's investment of grace, power, and resources. It attracts people who are hungry to receive what God is offering through His people.

C. Jesus is Magnified

The world divides over differences. The Church is designed to showcase a diversity of people united in love for one another and for Christ. This supernatural unity points the world directly to the Gospel!

John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"*

4. Embrace Your Irreplaceable Role

To the One Feeling Insignificant: Stop saying, "I have nothing to offer." God says you do. Your quiet presence, your practical help, your faithful prayer—these are the ligaments that hold us together. Step out in faith and offer what you have.

To the One Prone to Compare: Repent of the contempt that devalues a brother or sister. Instead, seek them out. Thank them for their contribution. Intentionally receive the ministry God has given them for you.

- Repent: For despising the way God made us or others. **You are a gift to others!**
- Activation: "Holy Spirit, show me my part. Give me the courage to offer it faithfully."
- Affirmation: "Lord, show me one person whose contribution I have undervalued, and help me to encourage them this week."

Ephesians 4:4-7, 16 *"Go now, as indispensable members of the one Body, equipped by the one Spirit, to love and build up one another, until we all attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

Worship God with your First-fruits, tithes, and sacrifices:

Matthew 6:19 NLT *"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is bad "covetous", your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*