The Supernatural Church

When I was in school, we took home economics. Do they do that anymore? I think it's optional these days. But in the past, every girl took home economics. It was required. In this class we learned how to set a table. I know in various parts of the world it is done differently, but we were taught to put the fork on the left, the knife and spoon on the right. The blade of the knife was always turned toward the plate. To this day that's the way I set my table. I "deliberately and intentionally" place the silverware in that order. I set it that way.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28 the Apostle Paul said "God hath set some in the church". Our God, who is sovereign, supreme in authority, with the head of the church, Jesus, at His right hand says, "I'm going to set things in order in the church. I'm going to organize the church." Then He lists the ministry gifts of the church: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings (the evangelist), helps (which I love), governments (the pastor) and diversities of tongues. These ministry gifts appointed by God are the organizational level of the church, what we might call professional clergy. Although the word "professional" is not my favorite description of ministry gifts, I believe it helps our understanding.

What is the purpose of these ministry gifts? Why does our God reach down, choose men and women, set them in the church and gift them? The answer is so clear in Ephesians 4:11-12. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of

the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. God gifts these ministers, orchestrates their lives, to perfect us, to give us the information and the data we need so that we can grow. We are to grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." We are not to remain as children, but we are to grow up as imitators of God.

Now, here is a glorious truth that awaits us as we grow in God. God who sets the ministry gifts in the church also sets the members in the body. In 1 Corinthians 12:18, the Apostle Paul says, *but now hath*

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God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. Did you realize there was a place for every member of God's family, a place set up by God, a place that pleases God? The Apostle Paul explains this truth to the Corinthian church by comparing the various callings in the body of Christ to the parts of a physical body. He declares that some are eyes, some are ears, some are feet, and some are hands. In Romans 12:4, he says, we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office.

How then are we to know our work, our office, our function? Here is what I tell everyone who is idle, sitting around, waiting for their "spot" to show up. Take any job you are offered. You can eliminate jobs, or embrace them as your own by "putting your hand to







the plow." As the Holy Spirit leads you, it is not a disgrace to cry out by that same Spirit, "This is surely not my spot!" With that recognition, you are now one step closer to the work of the Spirit, the divine assignment that is given to you. There is just no profit in idleness.

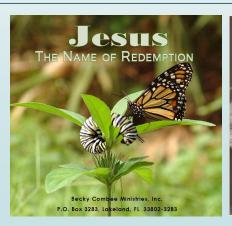
For approximately five years, I worked in Kid's Zone as a substitute teacher. I volunteered because I was not busy. Quickly, I learned that working with children was not my gift, but I continued in order to follow our Lord's command, "Occupy till I come."² Were those years a waste of time? No, it was in Kid's Zone that I learned a valuable lesson about the anointing.

Somebody asked me one day, "How's the anointing in Kid's Zone?" This was strictly in reference to what I was doing.

I said, "Anointing? Are we expecting an anointing?"

Some time later, the anointing fell as I was teaching. I remember it well. The lesson was "I am the Bread of life." I asked a little girl, "What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the Bread of Life?" The Holy Ghost fell on her and she gave the most phenomenal answer. I wish I had written it down because I can't recall it now. But it was God. It was the anointing of God on His children.

I'm so glad I was in Kid's Zone, but that is not where I am today. As I submitted to Him, He called me to teach in other areas. Certainly, He takes all of us, some hands, some feet, some eyes, some ears, and sets us in a place of service. If we continually and humbly say, "I will," He carries us step by step, day by day. Through our obedience, His will is performed in our life. I wouldn't have it any other way!





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¹ Ephesians 4:13

² Luke 19:13