

Resurrection SHAPE Profile

What is your SHAPE

God never wastes anything. The Bible says you are “wonderfully complex.” You are a combination of many different factors. By identifying and understanding these factors you can discover God’s will for your life. To help you remember five of these factors, we have created a simple acronym: S.H.A.P.E.

Ministry is using what God has uniquely given you to uniquely serve Him and the needs of others. The above five factors will help you determine where you can best serve Him with joy, fulfillment, and fruitfulness. Discovering your set of spiritual gift(s), heartfelt passions, abilities, personality, and life experiences will help you understand how God has designed you to uniquely serve.

God takes ordinary people and accomplishes extraordinary things through them!

S = Spiritual Gifts

H = Heart’s Passion (what fires you up? Gets you excited?)

A = Abilities (what your good at)

P = Personality

E = Experiences

Spiritual gifts?

“The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” 1 Cor. 12:7

A Few Things About Spiritual Gifts

- Understanding “Spiritual Gifts” comes through faith 1 Cor 2:14
- You can’t earn or work for a spiritual gift. Eph 4:7
- The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get. 1 Cor 12:11
- I am to develop the gifts God gives me. Rom 11:29
- It’s not God’s will that we waste the gifts God gave us. 1 Cor 4:1-2 and Mt 25:14-30
- Using my gifts honors God and expands me. John 15:8

Unwrapping Our Gifts

God desires you to know the spiritual gift(s) the Holy Spirit has chosen for you. “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.” (Matt. 7:7,8) Learning more about God’s gift(s) to us, and the many ways we can use those gifts within the church is a life-long process.

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27 -31, Eph. 4:11- 12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11, and there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included

in these lists. One person can have many gifts. How can you learn more about what Gifts you might possess (or might be ripe for further development) and start the process of unwrapping them?

Take the RLC Spiritual gifts Survey (on paper or online)

Heart

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Ps. 37:4

Another word for heart is passion. Passions are desires or purposes that bring us joy. There are certain subjects you feel passionate about and others you couldn't care less about. Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention while others turn you off or bore you to tears. These reveal the nature of your heart.

Consider the three ways in which your heart or passion is directed:

- a passion for a role (what you like to do);
- a passion for specific people (whom you like to help); and
- a passion for a cause (what you would like to see changed).

The Bible uses the term “heart” to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections you have. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations—what you love to do and what you care about most. Even today we still use the word in this way when we say, “I love you with all my heart.”

The Bible says, “As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.” Your heart reveals the real you—what you truly are, not what others think you are or what circumstances force you to be. Your heart determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do, and why you act the way you do.

In the same way, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These are clues as to where you should be serving.

What is a good way to see where your HEART might be in the ministries of RLC?

Check out what some of the roles that ignite your passion....

1. My Passion for a Role: I love to.....

- DESIGN/DEVELOP - I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.
- PIONEER - I love to test and try out new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.
- ORGANIZE - I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.
- OPERATE/MAINTAIN - I love to efficiently maintain something that is already organized.

- SERVE/HELP - I love to assist others in their responsibilities. I enjoy helping others succeed.
- ACQUIRE/POSSESS - I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.
- EXCEL - I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.
- INFLUENCE - I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others.
- PERFORM - I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.
- IMPROVE - I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.
- REPAIR - I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.
- LEAD/BE IN CHARGE - I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.
- PERSEVERE - I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.
- FOLLOW THE RULES - I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.
- PREVAIL - I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.
- OTHER: _____

Circle the following People on whom you feel you can make the greatest impact.

2. My Passion for People: I love to be or work with.....

Infants/Babies

Toddlers

Preschool Children

Elementary Children

Jr. High Students

High School

College/Career

Young Marrieds

Women

Men

Singles

Single Parents

Families Couples

Older Couples

Adults (60+)

Other _____

Circle the following Causes you feel led to champion!

3. My Passion for a Cause: I get excited about.....

Parenting

Families/Marriage

At-Risk Children

Abuse/Violence

Financial Management

Grief

Disabilities and/or Support

Deafness

Blindness

Law/Justice Issues

Life Issues

Homelessness

Drug and Alcohol Recovery

Compulsive Behavior Recovery

Illness and/or Injury

Sexuality and/or Gender Issues

Education

Evangelism

World Evangelization

Fellowship

Mobilizing People for Ministry

Worship

Policy and/or Politics

Race

Business and the Economy

Relief Efforts

Ethics (personal, corporate)

Health and/or Fitness

Science and/or Technology

Environment

International and Global Affairs

Regional, State or Federal Issues

Community/ Neighborhood Issues

Other _____

Abilities?

"There are different abilities to perform service." 1 Cor. 12:6

Your abilities are the natural talents with which you were born. All of our abilities come from God. The Bible says, "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." Since your natural abilities are from God, they are just as important as your spiritual gifts. The only difference is that you were given them at birth.

One of the most common excuses people give for not serving is "I just don't have any abilities to offer." This is simply not the case. You have dozens, probably hundreds, of untapped, unrecognized, and unused abilities that are lying dormant inside you. Many studies have revealed that the average person possesses from 500 to 700 different skills and abilities—far more than you realize.

Every ability can be used for God's glory. Paul said, "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." The Bible is filled with examples of different abilities that God uses for his glory. The Bible says, "There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service." God has a place in the church where your specialties can shine and you can make a difference. It's up to us to find that place.

What I'm able to do, God wants me to do. You are the only person on earth who can use your abilities. No one else can play your role, because they don't have the unique shape that God has

given you. The Bible says that God equips you "with all you need for doing His will." To discover God's will for your life, you should seriously examine what you are good at doing and what you're not good at doing.

Circle the following Abilities that apply to your life!

Entertaining ability: To perform, act, speak, sing

Recruiting ability: to enlist and motivate people to get involved

Interview ability: to discover what others are really like

Researching ability: to read, gather information, collect data

Artistic ability: to create or design

Graphics ability: to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners

Evaluating ability: to analyze data and draw conclusions

Planning ability: to strategize, design and organize programs and events

Managing ability: to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details

Counseling/Encouraging ability: to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity

Athletic ability: to coach or participate in a sport

Teaching ability: to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor

Writing ability: to write articles, letters, books

Linguistic ability: to speak and write in one or more languages (including sign)

Editing ability: to proofread or rewrite

Promoting ability: to advertise or promote events and activities

Repairing ability: to fix, restore, maintain

Hobby related ability: to work with your hands in the following areas

- Canning
- Woodworking
- Gardening
- Sewing
- Knitting/Crocheting
- Cooking Furniture
- Construction/Repair
- Other _____

Feeding ability: to create meals for large or small groups

Recall ability: to remember or recall names and faces

Mechanical operating ability: to operate equipment, tools or machinery

Technical ability: to operate/repair equipment in the following area(s)

- Recording Studio
- Audio/Technical Support
- Information Systems (Web)
- Set Up/Tear Down
- Media/Tape
- PowerPoint
- Video Artist/Technician
- Lighting Technician
- Other _____

Resourceful ability: to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed

Counting ability: to work with numbers, data or money

Classifying ability: to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily

Public Relations ability: to handle complaints and unhappy people with care and maturity

Welcoming ability: to convey warmth, develop rapport, make others feel comfortable

Musical ability: to sing or play a musical instrument

Landscaping ability: to do gardening and work with plants

Decorating ability: to beautify a setting for a special event

Other _____.

Personality

Your personality will affect how and where you use your spiritual gifts and abilities. For instance, two people may have the same gift of evangelism, but if one is introverted and the other is extroverted, that gift will be expressed in different ways.

Woodworkers know that it's easier to work with the grain rather than against it. In the same way, when you are forced to minister in a manner that is "out of character" for your temperament, it creates tension and discomfort, requires extra effort and energy, and produces less than the best results. This is why mimicking someone else's ministry never works. You don't have their personality. Besides, God made you to be you! You can learn from the examples of others, but you must filter what you learn through your own shape.

Like stained glass, our different personalities reflect God's light in many colors and patterns. This blesses the family of God with depth and variety. It also blesses us personally. It feels good to do what God made you to do. When you minister in a manner consistent with the personality God gave you, you experience fulfillment, satisfaction, and fruitfulness.

It's obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety; just look around. And there is not a "right" or "wrong" temperament. We need opposites to balance the church. The personality traits listed below are grouped in four couplets each with two opposing tendencies.

On the next page, choose between the two personality types that best match who you believe you are. Remember, there is no "right answer." Don't over think the questions and put your most honest answer.

"I tend to....."

Be Extroverted

I prefer interacting with many people and gain energy from being part of a variety of activities.

OR

Be Introverted

I prefer interacting with only a few people and gain energy from quiet reflective time. I am a good listener

Be Self-expressive

I am more open and verbal about my thoughts and opinions. I enjoy sharing these with other people.

OR

Be Self-controlled

I tend to keep my thoughts and opinions to myself

Prefer Routine

I am more comfortable being involved in activities where I clearly know what is expected of me. I like closure and completion before starting something new.

OR

Prefer Variety

I am more fulfilled by tasks that change and maybe even have some surprises. Finishing one task before starting another is not crucial

Be Cooperative

As I work with others, I easily see their point of view. I like being part of a team effort.

OR

Be Competitive

I like a sense of Challenge. It increases my effort and helps me overcome the obstacles.

Experiences

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to God's purpose." Romans 8:28

You have been shaped by your experiences in life, most of which were beyond your control. God allowed them for His purpose of molding you. In determining your shape for serving God, you should examine at least five kinds of experiences from your past.

- Ministry experiences: How have you served God in the past?
- Work experiences: What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?
- Educational experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
- Spiritual experiences: What have been your most meaningful times with God?
- Painful experiences: From what problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned?

It is this last category, painful experiences, that God uses the most to prepare you for ministry. Even in the hurts - good can (and will) come! (Romans 8:28) In fact, your greatest ministry will most likely come out of your greatest hurt. Who could better minister to the parents of a Down syndrome child than another couple who have a child afflicted in the same way? Who could better help an alcoholic recover than someone who fought that demon and found freedom? Who could better comfort a wife whose husband has left her for an affair than a woman who went through that agony herself?

God allows us (does not prevent) to go through painful experiences to equip us for ministry to others. The Bible says, "God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." 2 Cor. 1:4

If you really desire to be used by God, you must understand a powerful truth: The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life—the ones you've wanted to hide and forget—are the experiences God wants us to use to help others. They are your ministry!

Availability: The Gift and the Burden

It does not take great ability; it takes great availability for God to make an impact with your life!

You have begun the SHAPE discovery process. You have examined your spiritual gifts, your heart's desires, your natural abilities, your personality bent and your life experiences. Now you need to consider how you are going to use the way God has shaped you to serve within the church.

Real servants make themselves available to serve. They want to be ready to jump into service when called on. Much like a soldier, a servant must always be standing by for duty: "No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him." 2 Timothy 2:4 (NASB) If you only serve when it's convenient for you, you should rethink your priorities. Real servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient. Are you available to God anytime? As you think about committing time to serve, ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Are you making service a priority?
- 2) In your current season of life, how much time do you think you can give?

Please select the amount of time you could serve per week:

1-2 hours 3-5 hours 6 + hours

Please select your best time during the week:

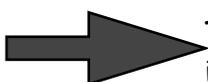
Weekday Weeknight Weekend

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me." John 12:26 NIV

Congratulations! You have completed the first step in the SHAPE discovery process. Thank you for taking the time to begin to discover how "You Were SHAPED for serving God." Hopefully God has revealed, clarified, or affirmed something to you about your SHAPE today. You are a gift and God has amazing things in store for you in ministry!

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:10

Now, how do you take the Next Step in finding a fulfilling place of service?



To Discover where in the RLC Family you might fit in (considering your S.H.A.P.E.) now is the time to take the RLC Time and Talent Checklist