

## Romans 12:4-5 (NLT2)

*Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

Are all called to be pastors or teachers or evangelists? The answer is No, and Paul addresses that in Ephesians when he said that ***“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”*** Ephesians 4:11 and the key word in this verse is ***“some”***, which clearly means that not everyone is called to be a pastor or teacher or evangelist.

But sometimes Christians feel bad or are even pressured to be something that they are not called to be as a Christian. But I like how Paul puts it in today's verse when he says that ***“each part has a special function”*** Once again, Paul does not say that each part of the body has the same ***“special function”***, because if we all had the same ***“special function”***, then it wouldn't be special.

For me, I have two special functions in the body (the church). One you are reading right now, which is teaching God's word. The other is being a musician, and I am on the worship team at church, so my other special function is leading others into worshipping God (musically).

Paul tells us again, why we each have those ***“special functions”***, and that is ***“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*** Ephesians 4:12 So my teaching of the bible helps equip the saints (believers) in their walk with the Lord, and my music helps equip the saints in worshipping the Lord.

But maybe you don't feel good because you can't teach the bible or play an instrument, and your voice is out of tune with everyone else. But, you know what, it's ok that you can't do what God has gifted me or someone else to do. And you shouldn't feel bad, because you can't do what I do, or you shouldn't feel pressured into doing something you simply cannot or was not called or gifted to do.

Take my wife for example, now she also has the gift of teaching and leads the women in our church. But even her gift of teaching is different than mine, because I could not teach a bunch of women like she could, and the women can relate to her in a way they could never relate to me as a man.

Also, in my job, I am on the Regulatory side of medical devices and I contractor for companies that manufacture medical devices. But just because I am, does not mean that I am a doctor, and a doctor would be crazy to try and force me to be a doctor, just because he is. In the same case, a doctor has no idea about FDA regulations or dealing with the FDA like I do. I would not try and force what I know on a doctor, because I know his job is important in what he does, just like mine is important in what I do. Both of us are in the medical field, just different aspects of it, and

both of our function's help those who are physically sick, and we couldn't do it without each other doing our different jobs that we were trained to do.

Maybe you are a housewife, or you maybe you work a normal 40 hour a week job like everyone else does. Maybe you don't feel like you have a "*special*" gift from the Lord.

But you know what? God has called you to be in the workplace that you are in. He has not called me, or your pastor, or a worship leader to be there, No, He's called you into that "*special*" ministry at your workplace. And what is that "*special*" ministry you have there? It's simply being you and who you are in Christ Jesus. It's not being your pastor, or your favorite Christian musician, or a preacher, or evangelist or even a teacher of the word. It's once again just being you, and showing Jesus the way only you can, because that's why God has called you, or placed you there, be it at work, school, or even hanging with the friends that you have. Because God knows that YOU are just what they need to see Jesus.

God has given me the gift of playing keyboards, writing and producing songs, but not so that you can play keys and write songs. That's my gift and it would be a sin to try and force on you what God has not gifted you to do. So stop feeling bad because you are not what man (or woman) says you that should be, and be happy that you are what God has called you to be, and that is you, with the gift(s) He has given to you, and not the gift He has given to someone else.

† **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT2)** *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*