

“Discover Your SHAPE for Serving God”
Hearing With Your Heart
Ephesians 6:5-8

- I. Today we’re continuing our discussion of SHAPE.
 - a. Last week we talked about Spiritual Gifts, the S in SHAPE.
 - b. The rest of the acronym goes like this:
 - i. H is for Heart.
 - ii. A is for Abilities.
 - iii. P is for Personality.
 - iv. E is for Experiences.
 - c. Today, let’s talk about H = Heart.
- II. In the Bible, your heart is the seat of [The heart is full of] your hopes, dreams, and ambitions.
 - a. It’s a unique mix of qualities that we sometimes attribute to our minds and sometimes to our hearts.
 - i. When we say things like, “I know in my heart;” we see how we blend heart and mind together.
 - ii. Valentine’s Day is just past, a day we set aside to trivialize love; by sending cards that say, “I love you with all my heart” to the girl we met over the weekend.
 - iii. But the heart is far more precious and far more potent than Hallmark ever imagined.
- III. Your heart is who you truly are.
 - a. It’s the real you.
 - i. Sometimes you try to be the person you think others want you to be.
 - ii. Sometimes you try to be the person you want to be.
 - iii. But your heart is the person you really are – without the masks and without the pretensions.
 - b. Proverbs 27:19 says, “As the water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.”
 - i. You can pretend for awhile, but ultimately your life is a picture of your heart.
 - ii. And if your heart is your true self – then what you do with your heart and how you treat your heart is incredibly important.
- IV. Serve your Master whole-heartedly.
 - a. Look at Ephesians with me again, specifically, verse 7: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, ...”
 - i. One of the difficulties we have is that our hearts are not whole. They are divided.
 - ii. They are divided because we don’t guard them and we don’t guard our hearts because we don’t understand how precious they are.
 - b. In Ezekiel 36:26 God says, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”
 - i. Part of being a new creation in Christ is that we have new hearts – hearts that can be whole.
 - ii. We have a new heart.
 - c. So, serve your Master whole-heartedly.
- V. Your heart can be trusted.
 - a. Honestly, that’s hard for me to believe.
 - b. But, if I have a new heart given to me by God, I think I can trust that heart.
 - i. I have to guard it.
 - ii. I have to protect it.
 - iii. I have to fill it with the things of God, but I think I can trust it.
 - c. Here’s what Scripture says about your heart.

- i. “Good people bring good things out of the good stored up in their heart.” – Luke 6:45.
 - ii. “But the seed on the good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” – Luke 8:15.
 - d. Trust your heart and let’s discover what your heart might be saying.
- VI. To do that, let’s ask some questions: first, what is your passion?
 - a. What are the things that hit you at a gut level and get you off the couch?
 - b. For all of us, there are some things we care about more than others.
 - i. When you hear about AIDS in Africa – does that hit you hard enough that you have to do something?
 - ii. When you learn of the needs of a ministry like CareNet pregnancy center, does that capture your attention?
 - c. Some things you are passionate about and some things just bore you to tears.
 - i. You can’t respond to everything.
 - ii. You aren’t SHAPed to do everything
 - iii. So ask yourself, what are you SHAPed to do?
 - iv. Listen to your heart.
 - d. Find some space and write down the first five things that come to your mind – the five things that you are most passionate about.
 - i. Some people have a passion for politics. {I rather get ... }
 - ii. Some people have a passion for building things.
 - iii. Some people have a passion art, science, whatever.
 - e. What are your passions?
 - i. What are you doing when you feel truly alive?
 - ii. What do you feel so strongly about that you just can’t help it?
- VII. What are your interests?
 - a. There are some things that you just love to do.
 - i. There’s a reason for that – a God reason.
 - ii. It’s part of the way you’re put together – your SHAPE.
 - b. If you can identify the things that you’re good at you can identify a large part of the SHAPE of your heart.
 - i. Because your interests come from God as surely as your spiritual gifts.
 - ii. They are uniquely you.
 - c. What do you like to do?
 - i. Do you like to garden? Do you like to do crafts?
 - ii. Do you like to work with wood? Do you like to work on your car?
 - iii. If you can identify these things then you can begin the next step:
 - iv. Imagining ways to use those interests for God’s glory.
 - d. When God asks for our service, I believe God also wants us to enjoy our service.
 - i. God doesn’t want us serving out of duty and looking at our service like its drudgery.
 - ii. What do you enjoy?
 - e. What can God do with what you enjoy?
 - i. Skateboarder’s ministry.
 - ii. Athletics ministry.
 - iii. Drama ministry.
 - iv. Movies & Drama.
 - f. Look at your notes and write down your answers to those two questions.
 - i. What do you like to do?
 - ii. What do you enjoy?
- VIII. What lights your fire?

- a. Being enthusiastic about what you're doing is a good sign that you're expressing your Heart in what you do.
 - i. "We're going to a meeting." – Not so excited.
 - ii. "We're re-building a house that got wrecked in a hurricane." – A lot more exciting.
 - iii. "Teaching a class on Discipleship." – Now you've got me.
 - b. So, what gets you out of bed in the morning?
 - i. Some days I get out of bed quicker.
 - 1. Because there are things on my calendar that I truly enjoy and get excited about.
 - 2. The things that I get excited about are uniquely me – they're part of my SHAPE.
 - ii. Here's what I mean ...
 - 1. Last week – ordination examination – I like that!
 - 2. Tuesday – Day Apart – not so much.
 - 3. I have a friend who's going to be DS – not so much.
 - c. What about you?
 - i. What do you jump out of bed in the morning to get to?
 - ii. When was the last time you spent a sleepless night because of something you were looking forward to the next day?
 - iii. Knowing those things means you're on the road to hearing your Heart speak.
 - d. Another way to look at it = what are you doing when time seems to fly by?
 - i. There are some things that we get more engrossed in than others.
 - 1. They hold our attention longer.
 - 2. We lose track of everything else.
 - ii. Sometimes these things can be "time-wasters," but they can also be places where your fire burns?
 - iii. How can you tell the difference between a time waster and a fire? Ask 3 questions:
 - 1. Is it something God would be pleased with?
 - 2. Does it serve others needs or yours?
 - 3. What fruit will it bear?
 - e. Ask yourself: What do you get really enthusiastic about?
- IX. What bears fruit?
- a. We've asked this question a couple of ways in different contexts, but it bears repeating again.
 - i. If whatever you are wired to do you love to do and do with enthusiasm = you'll get good at it.
 - ii. Practice makes perfect.
 - b. So over time, you'll start to bear fruit in that area.
 - i. Not all the time, but consistently over time – you'll bear fruit.
 - ii. When you look at the highest achievers in any field, you find people who are driven by their hearts – they love to do what they do.
 - 1. Gates, Trump: whatever else you may want to say, they have a passion for what they are doing.
 - 2. If you serve out of duty and obligation that will only get you so far – you'll burn out and you'll be unwilling to do the things you need to do to excel where you're serving.
 - c. What are you doing when other people take notice?
 - i. When someone says, "good job," what are you doing?
 - 1. People notice when you are serving from your heart.

2. It's that obvious – you just can't hide your heart.
 - d. If you're not bearing fruit.
 - i. You've misheard your heart.
 - ii. You're serving from your heart in the wrong place.
 1. I would guess that we all know people in our businesses who were successful in one area and then moved to another area:
 - a. Now they're not doing so hot.
 - b. We're quick to judge and throw stones, but it could be that they are simply serving from their heart in the wrong place.
 2. I did great as the Catering Director and Manager. I stunk up the joint when they moved me to Sales.
 - a. The people skills were there in each position, I was hearing my heart correctly.
 - b. But I was in the wrong place.
 - c. When I moved back to the Catering side, things improved.
 - iii. The same is true in the church.
 1. We need to hear what our heart is saying.
 2. But we also need to serve in the right place.
 - e. Where do you see fruit? If not, why not?
- X. Instead of working, I want to challenge you to live.
- a. Instead of serving, I want to challenge you to work from your heart.
 - b. Instead of going through the motions, I want to challenge you to hear what your heart is saying.
 - c. Galatians 6:4 says, "Take pride in yourself, without comparing yourself to somebody else."
 - i. When you serve from your Heart you have the confidence that you are exactly what God created you to do.
 - ii. Not just created you to do, but created you to enjoy!!