

Your Piece in God's Plan

(video transcript)

By *Karen Spiegelberg*



Jigsaw puzzles. Are you one who likes doing them, or not? It seems there are definitely two camps when it comes to this. You either really like doing them or you really don't. In either scenario, though, we can appreciate that each piece in a puzzle is completely unique, just like us women. And each piece has its own special job to do in the overall picture.

I'm Karen Spiegelberg, and welcome to A WORD for Women—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life.

I grew up in a home where jigsaw puzzles were commonplace, and my mom was the master of all masters when it came to putting them together. I remember her once putting together a 1000-piece puzzle with those little—you know—those practically microscopic sized pieces. It was a really neat old attic scene with attic toys, trucks and things, and she spent days, probably weeks, on that puzzle. Only to find in the end that one piece was missing. One piece in a 1000-piece puzzle! How frustrating! The picture still looked pretty good, but it just wasn't complete without that one piece.

And so it is with the body of Christ. The body of Christ is made up of different members—many different members, each one of them a necessary part, each with a diversity of talents, abilities and gifts. These members are called Christians. And we women have a very distinctive and important part in this body which is called, the Holy Christian Church.

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 12 St. Paul compares the body of Christ—the Church—to a human body with many essential parts. Here we read selected verses...

Verse 12: Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Verses 14-18: Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

Sometimes as women we have a temptation to think that the gifts and abilities we have are not that great or worthwhile. Or that someone else's ability is greater and therefore more valuable. But, remember then what Paul tells us, that God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them, just

as he wanted them to be. It means that the gifts you have been blessed with, whether you think they are great or small, are suited perfectly for you and the benefit of the Holy Christian Church—the whole body of Christ.

“But I’m not totally sure what my gifts are,” you might say. I think a way to help you and me identify where our gifts are would be to categorize them into three different ways: natural gifts that you tend to be born with like compassion or wisdom. Maybe you have a musical ability, athletic or artistic abilities. Then there are vocational or educational experiences, schooling or training you received in certain areas, nursing, accounting, and teaching, whatever it is. And finally there are work or life experiences. Jobs you’ve had, situations in life you’ve been through, even the death of a family member or surviving an illness yourself. All these God uses to bless us, equip us, and use us for his purposes.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:7: But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

What God has given you as gifts is a treasure. Why do you have this treasure? That the love of the Lord and the work of the Lord might be manifested in your life.

I grew up in a small town in a neighborhood that played backyard baseballs games all summer long. The kids were much bigger than I was, but it didn’t stop me wanting to join in with my brothers and the other kids. I was always the last one picked for any team, and then when I finally got up to bat someone on my team would yell, “This one doesn’t count!” Thankfully I was too young to understand what that meant.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:27: Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

What does *it* mean? It means that God has chosen you. He’s handpicked you, and equipped you. You’re on his team and you count.

Thank you for joining us on A WORD for Women. God bless you as you use your wonderful and diverse gifts to hit a homerun for the Lord!

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