

## “How Has God Made You Unique”

Text: Psalm 139:13-14

October 5, 2008

Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church ([www.pbpc.org](http://www.pbpc.org))

Oakland, California

Rev. Chris Gelini

### PRAY!

You don't have to travel too far around the world to discover very quickly that God loves variety. He's made all kinds of shapes, sizes, colors, intensities; an incredible variety in our world.

- God has made over 300,000 species of beetles. Would you call that overkill? Don't you think the world could have gotten along with just 50,000 species of beetles? Why did he create 300,000? He loves variety.
- In one cubit foot of snow there are 18 million snowflakes and not one of them are alike. Nobody else is going to see it but God. He loves variety.
- He likes variety in people too. Have you ever had to wait for an airplane and watch the parade of peculiar people walk by? God loves variety. And He made every single one of those individuals. God made you.

Psalm 139:13 (Good News), *“You (God) created every part of me. You put me together in my mother’s womb.”*

Vs. 14 (LB), *“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous.”*

Job 10:8, *“Your hands shaped me and made me.”* Circle “shaped.”

From these three verses we learn three foundational truths for the series we're beginning today and we'll be looking at for the next several weeks. Three important truths about you:

**1. I am unique.** You are unique. There is nobody else in the world like you. There never will be. When God made you He broke the mold. You won't find two people in the whole world who have the same footprint or fingerprint or voiceprint. Why did God make you different from every person who's ever lived? Because He wants you to know how special you are, how much you matter to God.

**2. I am wonderfully complex.** How many of you married somebody who is wonderfully complex? The fact is we are so complex that many times we are a mystery to ourselves.

- Have you ever said something and later thought, “What was I thinking when I said that?”
- Have you ever felt a certain way and later thought, “Why do I feel this way? What's happening to me?”
- Have you ever been in a group and everybody reacted one way to a circumstance and you found yourself reacting in the exact opposite way to

everyone else in the group? Inside you're thinking, "What's wrong with me?" There's nothing wrong with you, you're just unique. In this series I hope to shed some light on the mystery that's you.

**3. I was shaped for a purpose!** God created everything in the world for a purpose, the Bible says, including you.

- You're not here by accident. You're not just taking up space. God made you for a reason.
- You were designed by God and it was His idea. It's not a mistake. You were planned before birth. God did not simply sit down at a computer and randomly access a bunch of components and throw it all together and out came you.
- The Bible clearly says that you were purposefully, personally and orderly planned and designed by God. His loving hand made you exactly the way you are. You are you because God wanted you to be you.
- Your uniqueness is what God wants you to offer to the world.

Look at Jesus' disciples - (Peter, James & John, Thomas, Matthew, Judas)

We're going to begin a new series this week that I'm calling "You Are Shaped for Significance" (from the Job passage we looked at earlier). Today, I just want to overview the five factors of your shape and how that shape influences your life. In the succeeding weeks we'll go into detail of each of these five components.

## **I. THE FIVE PARTS OF MY GOD-GIVEN SHAPE**

In CLASS 301 this winter we will talk about how God has shaped you for ministry. But in this series we're not going to talk about ministry, we're going to talk about how your shape affects every other area of your life – your relationships, your career, your finances, your retirement, your enjoyment, your hobbies, your recreation.

The Bible says you're a combination of five different factors.

### **S – Spiritual gift/gifts**

A. The Bible says "*Each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*" There are at least 20 gifts listed in the Bible. We're going to look at them in detail. Every believer has at least one and your gift is to be used to benefit others. Every time you do something and you do it well, you do it and you enjoy doing it, you are revealing your giftedness. We're going to look at how this impacts your life.

### **H – Heart**

A. It's what drives you, what motivates you. All of us have different motivations, different drives, different interests. Would you agree there are some things you care about very deeply and there are other things you couldn't care less about? That's revealing your heart. This

causes a lot of conflict in marriage. We have different hearts. The Bible says, *“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose.”* The Bible says, *“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”*

- B. God puts desires in your heart. The way you discover what your heart, your basic motivation in life, is to ask yourself: What do I really love to do? What is it I think about when my mind is able to think about anything? What do I really dream about? You have basic interests that God has implanted in your life in order to accomplish different things.

### **A – Abilities**

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:6, *“There are different abilities to perform service.”*  
A lot of people think they don't have any abilities. Yes, you do. You just don't recognize them as abilities. Researchers have shown that the average person has between 500 and 700 different kinds of abilities. That's just an average person. If you can raise your hand that's an ability. You have many, many kinds of abilities. God says that this is part of how He shapes us.
- B. Some of you are interested in computers and some of you are scared to death of computers. Some of you have a natural ability with mechanical things. Many are good with numbers, words, speaking. Some have the ability to work with people, some in music, some can think with great ideas and abstract thoughts and put them all together.
- C. We all have different abilities and they are not by accident. God gave them to you for a purpose. Exodus 31:3, *“I (God) have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.”*  
2 Corinthians. 3:5, *“Our competence comes from God.”*

### **P – Personality**

- A. Some of you have personality with a capital P. Personality refers to three things: the way you act, the way you feel, and the way you think. The root of your personality is the way you think, because the way you think determines the way you feel and the way you feel usually determines the way you act. Even the Bible says the root of your personality is your thought life. Proverbs 4:23, *“Your life is shaped by your thoughts.”*
- B. Everybody agrees that personality is very complex. Researchers have discovered there are at least 18,000 different personality traits. When you put those in combinations, the combinations are endless.
- C. Question: Are you born with personality or is it something that's acquired through the environment? Cindy & I. We'll look at this.

### **E - Experiences**

- A. God plans experiences in your life to help shape you. Romans 8:28, *“And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans.”* God is both organized and purposeful in planning the personal experiences He prepares for us.

He uniquely allows things in your life. He doesn't cause them all but He sees them and He allows even the bad to bring good out of your life. He wants to work through your experiences.

- B. In the last session of this series we're going to talk about four kinds of experiences that God uses in your life. We'll conclude the series talking about how to get the most out of the experiences you're having. God never wastes a hurt.

These are the five things we're going to be looking at the next several weeks. Spiritual gifts, Heart, Ability, Personality, Experiences. These five things make you, you.

Why must I understand my SHAPE? It impacts every area of your life!

- And my goal for you is that at the end of these six weeks you will be able to say what Paul said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am."

Know that God loves you and has shaped you to fulfill His purpose for your life.

### **PRAY!**

**Heavenly Father, what an awesome God you are. You had us in Your mind even before we were born. You did not randomly select the genetic code that each of us would have, but You lovingly fashioned and formed the DNA that would make each of us like no one else in the world. Lord, there are people here that need to understand and realize emotionally that they matter to You. Help them to sense Your love. Father, if there is someone here that has never opened their life to Jesus Christ would You help them to take that step, to step across the line today and say, Jesus Christ I want to know You. I want to have a relationship with You. I want You to come into my life and make me the person You want me to be. I want to follow You.**

**In this series, would You use these words from Your Word. Help us discover and develop the shape You've given to each of us, the design, how You've formed and crafted and fashioned and made each of us unique and for a purpose. I pray that individually and collectively as a church, that self-esteem will rise and people will find new success in life and find significance and meaning and satisfaction from being what You meant for them to be all along. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**