

## **Where do you “fit” in the church?**

**By Bob Young**

Every Christian has a place, but every place isn't for every Christian (1 Cor. 12:12ff; Eph. 4:11-16). Sometimes, it is not easy to find one's place. Some people are constantly on a quest to understand where they fit in. I am reminded of the little girl whose mother was remarrying after the tragic death of the little girl's father. At the wedding ceremony, the little girl was constantly asking everyone she met, "Are you part of my new family?" That little girl was seeking identity, trying to find her place in an unfriendly world.

Jan and I faced the challenge of answering the question in our title when we entered the world of Christian higher education. We had never been in a church where we were not the preacher. We had to learn what it feels like and how it works to fit into the church when one has different roles and perspectives. The church is a family, and a harbor and haven in the storms of life. Here are five steps to help you toward finding your place.

### **1. Personal Discovery**

Who are you? Think and pray about the things that make you you. Think and pray about your personality, heritage, relationships, opportunities, and experiences.

### **2. Learn your spiritual gifts**

How has God equipped you? What unique and special talents and spiritual gifts do you have?

### **3. Abilities awareness**

What can you do? What are your special abilities or aptitudes?

### **4. Connecting passion with service or ministry**

What are you called to do? The fourth step connects your passion and desire with your service in the kingdom. How can you take the things you identified in the first three steps and connect with the work of God in this world?

### **5. Experiences of life**

How is that call confirmed? God does not call people to his service in a vacuum. When God creates you as a spiritual person with gifts and abilities, he confirms his plan in your life by the people and experiences he puts around you. The final step in finding your place is to seek the confirmation of God's plan in the daily rhythms of your life.