

## TOOLS AND DISHES

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*Now the body is not made up of one part but of many...But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

(1 Corinthians 12:14,18 NIV)

My husband's tool collection baffles me. Realistically, how many tools does a guy need besides a hammer, a screwdriver, and a set of pliers?

My husband holds a different opinion. "I need a drill for boring holes," he says. "And I can't do without a vice grip—it holds objects tighter than ordinary pliers." He names several other tools and explains their unique purpose. Just when I think he's finished, he adds, "Oh yeah...duct tape—a man can't live without it!"

I listen, survey his tool bench, and begin to understand his perspective. Each item has its own use and enables my husband to perform specific tasks. He values each one whether small or large, old or new.

Similarly, I own a large assortment of baking dishes—cake pans, loaf pans, pizza pans, cookie sheets, pie plates, muffin tins. Oh yeah...a mini muffin tin, too. Do I need them all? Of course! Each one performs a specific task.

My husband's tool bench and my kitchen cabinets are filled with variety, just as an assortment of skills and personalities fill the Christian community. Each individual—old or young, leader or follower—is designed for a specific role in building God's kingdom and is needed to fulfill the task.

How would you describe your role in God's kingdom? Perhaps you teach or sing. Maybe you make coffee for fellowship time or clean the building. Perhaps you volunteer in the nursery or mentor teenagers.

Whatever your role in the body of Christ, consider it important. You were designed for a unique purpose, and the Lord wants your participation in building His kingdom.

*Faith Step: This week, express appreciation to three people who are using their skills to build God's kingdom.*