



SPIRITUAL SUPPLIES



- A pencil must be sharp, but that doesn't mean it is a weapon. We must also be sharp in our thinking, even a little skeptical, but never adversarial (Matt. 10:16, 2 Tim. 2:24-26, 1 Thess. 2:1-8). Be ready to work, especially for God!
- Dullness is a natural tendency, so strive to be sharp. Stay on top of it, lest you become useless and imprecise (Heb. 5:11).
- Pencils have erasers, because we all make mistakes. Don't be too proud to admit your failures. Clean up the error and move on (1 John 1:8-10, Rev. 2:5, 16, 21, 3:3, 19).

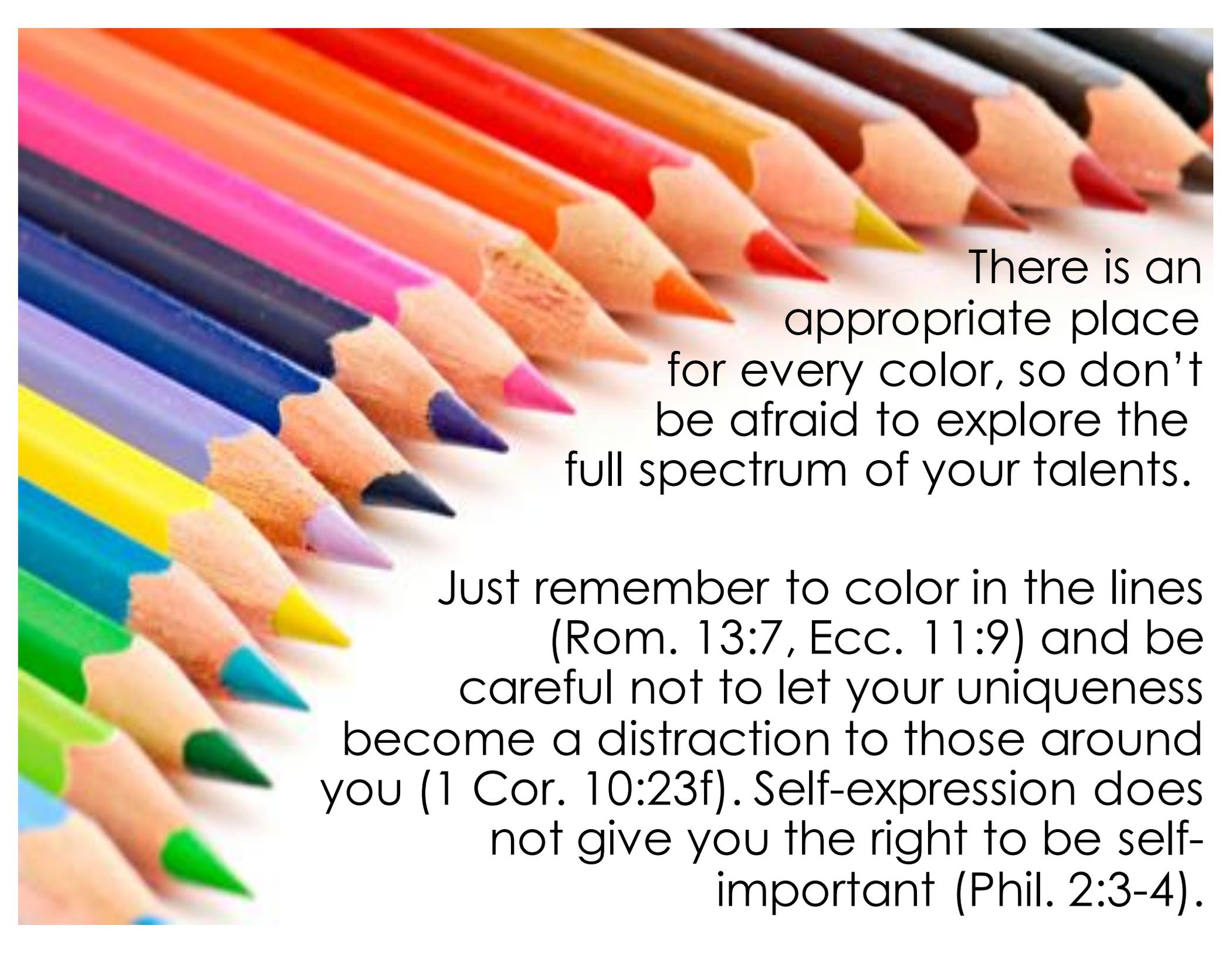


- Glue binds things together. A new school year affords us the opportunity to bind together things like new friendships or a reputation for hard work, kindness, and faithfulness.
- But only the right things should be glued together (any kindergartener knows the temptation to abuse a glue stick). Remember 1 Cor. 6:15ff and 2 Cor. 6:14ff.
- Don't bind yourself to bad friends (1 Cor. 15:33) or false ideas, but be glued to the Word (Deut. 6:6-9).





- A ruler gives you an exact measurement. You don't have to guess what an inch is or attempt to draw straight lines "free hand."
- Make sure you bring a moral and spiritual ruler with you to school. Otherwise, every new idea will captivate you, every challenge will be insurmountable, and every test of your faith will leave you without any solid answers.
- "Self" cannot be your standard of measure (2 Cor. 10:12). Humans are inconsistent (Matt. 23:3). Look to the divine standard (John 12:48) and trust wisdom (Proverbs 8).



There is an appropriate place for every color, so don't be afraid to explore the full spectrum of your talents.

Just remember to color in the lines (Rom. 13:7, Ecc. 11:9) and be careful not to let your uniqueness become a distraction to those around you (1 Cor. 10:23f). Self-expression does not give you the right to be self-important (Phil. 2:3-4).

- A calculator is designed to handle the kind of questions that might be far beyond our capability. At the very least, a calculator is able to answer math questions faster (and with more reliability) than we can.



- Don't be afraid to ask for help with tough questions when they come up. Believe it or not, our parents were kids once, too, and likely faced similar challenges (Ps. 71:17f, Prov. 23:15-16, 22-26, 11:14, 1:8-9).



2 PETER 1:5-11