

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"Christ's Gifts to the Church" # 13
Eph. 4:7-11
10-15-17 Sun AM

Last week we taught 4:1-6 where we learn that if we are to have unity we must have the lowly walk with the right attitudes based on the right foundation.

If we are to have biblical unity in the church we must have believers knowing and expressing their spiritual gifts.

We divide our text like this:

1. Gifts to men [vs. 7a].
2. Giver of Gifts [vs. 7b-10].
3. Gifted men [v. 11].

I. Gifts to men [vs. 7a].

1. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift given by Christ [v. 7].

Spiritual gift is a supernatural endowment by which the Holy Spirit ministers through a believer to other believers in order to build up the body.

2. Ten truths about spiritual gifts (Turn to I Cor 12:1-12).

(1). Possession of a gift does not mean we are spiritual, just saved.

(2). Every believer has at least one gift (I Cor 12:7; I Peter 4:10-11).

(3). The gift is not for you but the body (I Cor 12:7; I Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6).

(4). A spiritual gift is not the same as a natural ability.

(5). Its possible to have a gift and not use it (I Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6).

(6). We can't pray for certain gifts (I Cor 12:11, 31).

Best gifts? He is speaking to the assembly as a whole. They are to desire all the useful gifts, not just the showy an spectacular.

(7). We are not to be ignorant about the gifts (I Cor 12:1).

(8). There are different distributions to different persons (I Cor 12:4).

(9). God works or energizes the use of the gifts (I Cor 12:6).

(10). As every believer uses their gifts, the church becomes a composite character of Christ.

I. Gifts to men [vs. 7a].

II. The giver of Gifts [vs. 7b-10]. Christ's right to give gifts.

1. Christ gives these gifts by His ascension to heaven and the coming of the Spirit. Gifts are the spoils of His victory that He gives the church.

2. The *captives* here are those who were once captive to Satan but now captive to Christ.

He quotes Ps. 68:18 written by David about his restoration of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem [2 Sam. 6:12-15]. Paul applies it to Christ's ascension to heaven in victory.

3. *Lower parts of the earth* is refers to his incarnation.

III. Gifted men [vs. 11-12].

Not only has Christ given gifts to each believer, but he has given gifted men to the church.

These are divinely called and placed IN the body at different ages or times in the church age (1 Cor. 12:28).

1. *Apostles-*

To lay the foundation in the church [Eph. 2:20].

To receive and declare God's revelation [Eph. 3:5].

To give confirmation of that Word thru signs and wonders [2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4].

They had to be called by the Lord, walked with Him, performed signs and wonders, and seen the resurrected Lord.

2. *Prophets-*

Prophets are those different from those with the gift of prophecy- One received direct revelation from God while the other expounded revealed truth.

Their message was to be judged by the apostles [1 Cor. 14:37].

Once the foundation was laid, their office ceased [Eph. 2:20].

3. *Evangelists-*

Men who proclaim the good news. He is a proclaimer of salvation by grace thru faith in the Son of God.

They were missionaries and church planters.

4. *Pastor teachers-*

Shepherds who are to tend, care for, and lead the local flock.

Greek states Pastor-Teachers. The word 'some absent before teachers, lets us know he is speaking of the same gifted man. Their primary task was to teach the Word.

Next Week- We will see how God uses these gifts to build His church.