

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"Gifts For Unity"
Ephesians 4:7-12
Study-13

Ephesians 4:1-16 – Walking In Unity.

Ephesians 4:7 – "But to each one of us grace was given"

Paul changes from what Christians have in common to how Christians differ from each other; Variety, individuality but with the unity of the Spirit.

Thought Of The Passage: "God Has Brought About Unity Through The Gifting Of Individuals Through Diversity Through The Holy Spirit."

1. Verse 7 – Gifts For Individuals

2. Verses 8-10 – Gifts Assured

3. Verse 11 – Gifts For Church

4. Verse 12 – Gifts With Purpose

1. Verse 7 – Gifts For Individuals:

Ephesians 4:7 – The word "But" is an important link to tie together this thought of unity. Ephesians 4:1-16 – Unity

Ephesians 4:1-3 – Paul speaks of the unity that is maintained through Christ-like character.

Ephesians 4:4-6 – Paul speaks of the unity we share in the truth. The basis of an outward unity is an inward unity.

Ephesians 4:6 – Paul emphasizes the unity of all.

Ephesians 4:7 – "But" – could be translated, "on the other hand," or "in spite of." Paul has been speaking about "all" the unity that we Christians all share, then injects "But or on the other hand." Each one of us he focuses on the individual.

1 Corinthians 12:7

"grace" – Used 156X in NT; Paul used it 110X; When we think of the word grace, we think of "saving grace," Ephesians 2:8-9.

The word "grace" is not only the saving of our souls but also the enabling power of us to serve, Ephesians 2:10.

The Greek word "grace" – "charis;" we get the term "Charismatic."

"Charis" – "thanks, pleasure, that which affords joy, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness, grace of speech."

1 Corinthians 12:11

"according to the measure of Christ's gift." – "measure" – "a vessel for receiving and determining the quantity of things."

Romans 12:6

"of Christ's gift" – Jesus is the giver of the gifts.

There are 3 basic lists in Scripture that speak about the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-30; 2) Romans 12:3-8; 3) Ephesians 4:11. About 20 are listed.

1 Peter 4:10-11

2. Verses 8-10 – Gifts Assured:

Ephesians 4:8 – This is a quote from Psalm 68:18, when David came up to Mount Zion from victory over the Jebusites, 2 Samuel 6-7; 1 Chronicles 13.

There is a so-called problem with the passage: In Ephesians 4:8 it says, "He gave gifts." In Psalms 68:18, it says, "You have received gifts." The word "received" – "to take to/for a person, procure, get, take possession of." It is the idea of taking from another in order to give to another.

Ephesians 4:9 – It can also be taken that Jesus left heaven to come to the lower parts called earth so that he might pay the price to redeem us and give us gifts.

Jesus, after His death and resurrection, went down into a place called Sheol, Luke 16:19-31. He led captive a host of captives, 1 Peter 3:19-20.

Matthew 27:52-53

Ephesians 4:10

3. Verse 11 – Gifts For Church:

Ephesians 4:11

Paul now speaks of 4 gifted offices that Jesus gave to the Church. I believe that these are “Christ’s gifts to the Church is gifted men”

1. Apostles – “one who is sent with a commission,” “to send away.” These were to guide the infant church in the way it ought to go.

It falls into 3 categories:

- 1. Every Christian Is Called To Go:** To be sent with a commission. John 17:18
- 2. Apostles Of The Church:** They were missionaries or were sent on special errands of the church.
- 3. The 12 Apostles Of Christ:** Which included, after the death of Judas, Matthias. It also included Paul, who said he was born out of time.

2. Prophets – “to stand in the counsel of God;” “one who foretells, but is one who is forth telling;” Those who were gifted to guard the infant church in what it ought to know.

2 categories:

- 1. There is the office of the prophet.** Canonical; who spoke the verbal word equal to the written word. We see them in the NT working in conjunction with the apostles, Ephesians 2:20, Ephesians 3:6, 1 Corinthians 12:28.
- 2. There is the gift of prophecy.** When we speak of prophecy, we speak of the speaking forth of the Word of God.

1 Corinthians 14:3 – “edification” – one who promotes another’s growth in Christian wisdom, piety, joyfulness, holiness.

exhortation – a calling near, summons, entreaty, encouragement, persuasive discourse, stirring address, instructive.

consolation – any address, whether made for the purpose of persuading, or of calming and consoling.

3. Evangelists – “bearers of good news;” used only 3X in the Bible and only one person was called an “Evangelist,” it was in Acts 21:8.

Paul told Timothy to do the work of an Evangelist – 2 Timothy 4:5.

4. Pastors and teachers – Notice that there is not the phrase “some as,” it just say’s “pastors and teachers.” They are one and the same.

Paul told Timothy, 2 Timothy 4:2 – “preach the word;”

4. Verse 12 – Gifts With Purpose:

Ephesians 4:12

God’s 3 Reasons For Giving Gifted Men:

- 1. “for the equipping of the saints”** – equipping or perfecting – was used of “setting a broken bone or the mending of a torn fishing net, to mature.”
- 2. “for the work of service,”** – As the church is equipped, they are to do the work of service.
- 3. “to the building up of the body of Christ;”** – The church can then mature, when believers begin to leave infancy to reproduce themselves.

Application:

1. Do I Know What Gift Or Gifts That Jesus Christ Has Given To Me?
2. If I Know What Gift Or Gifts That Jesus Christ Has Given To Me, What Am I Doing About It?
3. What can you start to do right now about it? Find a place to serve.