

# DIFFERENT GIFTS

Ephesians 4:7-16

- I. **THE GIVER** (8-10)—the ascended Jesus Christ
  - A. **Old Testament Foreshadowing**—Quoting of Psalm 68
    1. **Association with Pentecost** (Acts 2:33)—synagogue liturgy
      - a. Jewish Pentecost—Moses given the Law
      - b. Christian Pentecost—Christ giving the Holy Spirit
    2. **Implication of Divinity**—Psalm about God applied to Christ
    3. **Appropriating the Psalm**—Victor returning from war in victory march
      - a. The Gifts: receiving tribute or sharing the plunder
      - b. The Captives—prisoners He has *taken* or prisoners He has *freed*
  - B. **Christ Our Victorious Champion**—Savior King
    1. We owe everything to Him.
    2. We have no room for pride.
  - C. **Christ Our Model of Greatness** (Phil 2:1-11; Jam 4:10; 1 Pet 5:6)—Humility before exaltation
    1. His **Descent**—*Humiliation (humbled Himself)*
      - a. Incarnation—From God in heaven to human on earth
      - b. Death on the Cross—most shameful kind of death
      - c. Burial in the Grave—Hades, the place of the dead
      - d. Plundering of Hell? (1 Pet 3:19; Mat 27:51-53)
    2. His **Ascent** (Eph 1:20-23; Mat 28:18-19)—*Exaltation (by God)*
      - a. Location: from lowest earth to highest heaven
      - b. Rank: from lowest shame to highest honor and authority
- II. **THE GIFTS** (7, 11-12; 1 Cor 12:4)—different expressions of grace
  - A. **Different Gifts of Service**—to equip individuals to serve in different ways
  - B. **Given by Jesus**—He decides which, to whom, and how much
  - C. **To Individuals**—unique, personal stewardship

**D. For the Church**—not for personal benefit but to benefit the Body

1. Individual and Corporate Faith
2. The Importance of Community—part of something bigger, need each other, need to be needed
3. The Gift of Clergy—to build up and equip the entire body for ministry; teach and guard true doctrine of the faith

**III. THE GOAL** (13-14)—Maturity of the Church

**A. Unity of faith and knowledge of Christ**—clergy teach & guard this

**B. Maturity to the full Measure of Christ** (1 Cor 14:26)—clergy empower

**C. Stability and Discernment**

1. No longer children
2. Solid Doctrine
3. The Danger of Deception (Mat 24:24)

**IV. THE CONDITIONS** (15-16)—necessary for developing maturity

**A. Truth**

**B. Love**

**C. Connection**

1. To the Head (Christ)
2. To One Another

**D. Working Together**

1. Different Parts
2. Different Jobs
3. Mutual Benefit
4. Same Goal