
Sunday Evening, when I spoke of spiritual gifts, I read Ephesians 4:1-16 as a supporting text, this is regard to gifts given by Christ to His church.

If you recall, (from 1 Corinthians 12), the primary purpose of “spiritual gifts” to the church is the common good and edification of the entire church body.

Remember when the Spirit of God “gifts” individual believers, it is ALWAYS for the profit of the church, and NOT to exalt or magnify the recipient.

Talents, gifts, or abilities given by the Spirit of God are not to be idolized, but they are to be used to equip and edify the saints.

Additionally, when the Spirit of God gives gifts, He makes them effectual; that is, He empowers the t for the recipient to USE in the church. The Spirit of God is the power behind the gift. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

That brings us our text this evening: Ephesians 4:1-16; parenthesis (V9-10)

For those who do not believe “membership” in a Biblical, Local, NT, Organized Church, their faulty opinion is ALL New Testament doctrine and diametrically opposed to what is written Ephesians 4, specifically in verses 11-16.

Ephesians 4:1-3: Every one of you (who are born-again by the Spirit of God) are called to “walk worthy” of the vocation, or walk worthy of your calling as Christians.

Walk Worthy of YOUR Vocation: That is, YOUR Christian trade, YOUR otherworld occupation; YOUR heavenly calling!

Whatever your occupation and business in this world, (and you ought to diligent and good at what you do in your earthly calling), but your heavenly calling MUST be your first and primary vocation and calling.

How does a child of God walk worthy of their calling? In lowliness, (humility of mind), meekness, (or as it means gentleness), with a longsuffering (or of a patient) spirit, (you should be long-spirited), and forbearing one another (or literally, bearing with) one another in love.

(Verse3): Endeavoring, or MAKING EVERY EFFORT to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (IN THE CHURCH).

ANY EFFORT (by anyone) who would break the unity of the Spirit (within the church) or endeavor to dissolve the bond that SHOULD and MUST exist among Christians in the body of Christ is one who spiritually diseased and infectious to the body of Christ. Take heed brethren!

We are TO BE UNITED TOGETHER as “One body”, behind “One Lord” for the mutual edification of each other “after the common faith”, or after the “one true faith” which is to be shared by and delivered to all the saints.

Jude 1-3, Ephesians 4:4-7

Ephesians 4:8: “When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men”. This is a quote from Psalm 68

Paul borrowed this quotation from King David in this Psalm of God's Mighty Victory over the enemies of Israel, and he applied it to the Son of Man's victory over His enemies when He conquered them in His death on the cross.

The Lord Jesus led captivity captive; which literally means He led His foes as captives and defeated prisoners after He had conquered them. Like the Kings and Generals of old who would ride victoriously into the city with defeated generals and captains in chains tied to their chariots!

Brethren: The Lord Jesus conquered His enemies and our enemies on His cross, (sin, the devil, and the world). He also conquered the Last Enemy that shall be destroyed, which is DEATH when He rose from the dead and from the grave!

Beloved, when the Lord Jesus ascended to His throne, He rode victoriously into heaven as King and Conqueror over His enemies! Psalm 24:7-10

Ephesians 4:8 completes with "and (He, the Lord) gave gifts unto men"

After the great victories, the commanding kings and generals, gave gifts to their people; the Lord Jesus in His victory gave gifts to His church: Note Ephesians 4:11.

And like EVERY gift given, it is for the edification and common good of His church!

Ephesian 4:11: "And He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers";

Paul's focus here is NOT on the gifts, (different from 1 Corinthians), but rather on THESE GIFTED PERSONS who are given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ, of which, you will not that "EVERY ONE" is a preacher of God's Word.

From this, understand that the most important aspect or component of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is that the truth of God's Word be preached and proclaimed in her.

1 Timothy 3:14-16, John 14:6, 18:37, Colossians 1:5

These "GIFTS" that the Lord Jesus gave/gives to His churches were/are men called and gifted for the edification and building of His church, and for the perfecting of it. Men called and sent to preach the gospel of Christ (to communicate the message of God) to both saints and sinners!

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to in the Holy Scriptures by every one of these titles.