



“Victorious Gifts”

The Church’s Conduct

Ephesians 4:7-10

Christ has given the Church a :

I. Capability - “the gift of Christ” (v. 7)

He equips us:

- A. Individually** – “unto every one of us”
- B. Intentionally** – “is given grace”
- C. Incrementally** – “according to the measure of..Christ”

II. Champion– “wherefore He saith” (v. 8)

He is the greatest :

- A. Sovereign** – “He ascended up on high”
- B. Savior** - “He led captivity captive”
- C. Supplier** - “[He] gave gifts unto men”

III. Cause - “what is it but that He also” (vs. 9-10)

He has the Father’s :

- A. Appointment** – “He also descended”
- B. Approval** – “the same that also ascended up”
- C. Authorization** – “that He might fill all things”

Sentence Sermon:

“Christ gave specific gifts to specific believers specifically for the health and maturity of the church .”

Additional Verses

- *Psalm 68:1-18*
- *II Timothy 1:6*
- *II Samuel 24:24*
- *Hebrews 2:14*
- *Acts 2:33*
- *Philippians 2:5-11*
- *I Corinthians 12:4-6, 11, 12-23*

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What misunderstandings do believers have about Unity? Share a story that illustrates the confusion?
- 2. How many different usages of “grace” are there?
- 3. Why is it important to understand “according to the measure of the gift of Christ?”
- 4. Where did Christ get the gifts He gave to man?
- 5. What are some practical, everyday ways we can live out the principles in this passage?

INTRO:

What Makes a good gift?

> Is it possible that we forget how we got where we are? What others have contributed, what we have had to pay, what price the Lord Jesus has paid for us to enjoy our position and progress and prospects?

V. 7

- But = a contrast with what was previous, SO what was previous ??? The Unity of the Church, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism !! BUT !!! BUT WHAT ???
 - We have UNITY as Christians in the Church BUT we also have DIVERSITY !!
 - MISTAKEN IDEAS OF UNITY
 - Unity = Conformity
 - Diversity = Disunity
- Unto every one of us is given = God gives every believer
- Grace
- According to the measure of the gift of Christ

You see, gifts are not toys to be played with, but they're tools to build with...And if they are not used in love, they become weapons to fight with...ie. The Corinthian Church. (Warren Wiersbe)

V. 8

- Wherefore he saith
- When He ascended up on high = Triple emphasis on risingascend + up + high
- He led captivity captive =
 - John Calvin put it like this: "The mighty victories which God wrought for Israel were noble triumphs, but the noblest

triumph which God ever gained was when Christ - after subduing sin, conquering death, and putting Satan to flight - rose majestically to heaven that He might exercise his glorious reign over the church'.

- And
- Gave gifts unto men

V. 9

- Now that He ascended
- What is it but that
- He also descended
- First
- Into the lower parts of the earth = 4 views
 - To the earth = became man incarnation - (genitive of Apposition)
 - Into the grave = into the earth / death
 - Down into hades = place of Abraham's bosom
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V. 10

- He that descended
- Is the same also
- That ascended up far above all heavens
- That He might fill = be what makes them up cp. with 1:23
- All things. = If possession is 9/10 of the law then Jesus reigns supreme and is the lawful owner of all.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Applications:

1. *I must begin with me.*

Am I living daily under His sovereign rule? Am I obedient to Christ, beginning on the thought level? Am I seeking to know Him and His will through His Word so that I can obey Him?

2. *I must be committed to the local church, where I must discover and exercise the gifts that He has given to me.* It is through the church, locally expressed, that Christ fills all in all (Eph. 1:23). If all you do is attend a weekly church service, but you're not involved in using your gifts to serve, you are not fulfilling Christ's purpose for your life.

**(3) I must engage in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness.* These verses are steeped in warfare terminology (which will be further developed in 6:10-20).

So don't be naïve. Serving Christ is not a Sunday School picnic! It is warfare and you need to be armed and ready for combat. Often the wounds come from friendly fire, not directly from the enemy!

**(4) I must not give up because the Lord will ultimately succeed.* You will grow weary in the battle. You will often feel as if your efforts are not accomplishing anything of lasting value. You will often feel like quitting. When you get wounded, you will be tempted to drop out of any kind of service.

(1 Cor. 15:58), "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." We will display and share in His glory.