

Improving Your Serve Notes

Ephesians 4:7-16

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March 2-3, 2024

Main Point: No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

The Reality of Discovering Spiritual Gifts (7-11)

1. Christ gives gifts to _____ believer (vs. 7).
 - “Grace was given” shows that we can’t earn spiritual gifts because they are _____ graciously to us.
 - A gift says nothing about the one who receives it, but it does reveal a lot about the character of the _____.
 - _____ Christian has been forgotten or overlooked (1 Corinthians 12:7).
 - These gifts are given according to the “_____” or “pleasure” of Christ Himself.
 - Our gifts vary from each other because God’s grace is manifested _____ in each of our lives (Psalm 68:19).
 - Since Jesus has defeated death, depravity, and the devil, and is now ascended on high, He shares the _____ of victory with His own (Colossians 2:15, 2 Corinthians 2:14).
2. Christ gives gifted people to _____ body of believers (vs11).
 - Apostles – An apostle was a “_____ one.”
 - Apostles were eyewitnesses of the resurrection, and were chosen by Christ to be the foundation of the church (Acts 1:15-22, Ephesians 2:20).
 - Prophets – _____ for God.
 - Evangelists – “_____ of Good News” presenting the gospel in compelling ways so people get saved.
 - Shepherds – The word “pastor” literally means, “shepherd,” and gives us the picture of an individual caring for, and leading God’s _____ (Jeremiah 3:15, 1 Peter 5:2).
 - Teachers – A teacher is gifted to expound on God’s Word by _____ and interpreting what it means and how to apply it to our world today (James 3:1).

The Reasons for the Distribution of Spiritual Gifts

1. To equip – The word “equip” has the idea of “making fully _____.”
 - Was used to describe “mending” nets. It involved cleaning all the seaweed off them, stitching up the sections which were torn, untangling them and getting them ready to be used again at a moment’s notice.
 - The nets were prepared for _____, not to be put in storage.

- In classical Greek, the word was also used of the _____ of a bone in order to put it back into proper alignment in the body.
 - Pastors are equippers who prepare and repair what's broken so we can all be _____ "for the work of ministry."
 - The word "work" reminds us we are called to _____ for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).
2. To edify
- The word "for" refers to the purpose behind serving – so that the body is built up.
 - The servant serves no matter _____.

The Results of Deploying our Spiritual Gifts

1. Unity (vs. 13).
 - The word "attain" refers to travelers _____ at their destination.
 - Disunity often raises its ugly head when people sit on the sidelines and talk about their _____ needs instead of sacrificially serving in order to meet the needs of others.
2. Maturity (vs. 13).
3. Conformity (vs. 13).
 - The number one factor in moving people deeper in their relationship with Jesus was to unleash them to _____ in some ministry.
4. Stability (vs. 14).
 - The word for "children" was used for "_____ infants."
 - Being "tossed to and fro" means "to be whirled around by waves."
 - The word "wind" speaks of strong and yet invisible forces that blow the unstable in every direction.
5. Clarity (vs. 15).
 - The word "rather" means that in opposition to being tossed to and fro in our faith, we are to practice "truthing in love."
6. Vitality (vs 15-16).
 - In order for a body to be healthy, the various parts need to work _____.
7. Charity (vs. 16).
 - Love is the _____ of any church.