



Christ's Gifts To the Church Ephesians 4:7-16

- 1) Jesus Christ gave gifts to His Church according to His grace (4:7-8, 11)
 - a) Apostles—the “sent ones” who walked with Christ, saw Him resurrected from the dead
 - b) Prophets—those who receive revelation from God to be written as Scripture
 - c) Evangelists—those who proclaim the good news (gospel) everywhere
 - d) Pastor-teachers—those who remain in a local church to shepherd Christ's flock
- 2) Christ gave gifted people to the Church to prepare the Church for Christian service (12)
 - a) “Saints,” God's people, are fed by pastors to be equipped to feed others
 - b) It is “service” unto God when His people lead and feed others for service to God
- 3) Christ desires that the gifted offices work to grow His Church in faith and maturity (13)
 - a) To become unified in doctrine and truth
 - b) To reach a point of having adequate knowledge of Jesus Christ
 - c) To grow over time until we reach maturity in our faith
- 4) The end result for Christians is a firm understanding of God on this side of glory (14-15)
 - a) No longer spiritual children but adults
 - b) No longer susceptible to erroneous teaching, latest fads, books, or preachers
 - c) No longer duped by charlatan preachers and cult leaders
 - d) Our message of truth will be spoken in love as Christ spoke and lived
- 5) Our Head, Christ, will feed His Church (His body) and will be known by love (16)
- 6) How does a church grow?
 - a) Through gifted leadership—teaches and lives out God's Word
 - b) Through discipleship—preparing God's people for works of service; using their gifts
 - c) Through a progressive corporate maturity of God's people
 - d) Through truthing in love— transparent, honest, loving speech and lives