

EBC – Adult Bible Study
“Spirit Empowered, Godly Living in an Ungodly World”
2019-2020

IV. The Leading of the Spirit in Loving the Brethren in Ministry – Part 1

A. God’s design

1. Ministry - Gifted members of the body ministering to the whole of the body for the purpose of edification of the body to maturity
2. Gifted members of the body
 - a. What makes one a member of the Body of Christ
 - i. 1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
 - Ac 1:5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
 - Ro 6:3-6 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
 - ii. Ga 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 - b. Gifted members
 - i. Pastor/teacher type Folk
 - Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
 - Ac 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the **Holy Spirit has made you overseers**, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
 - ii. Non-pastor/teacher Folk
 - 1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
 - 1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
3. ministering to the whole of the body
 - a. Pastor/teacher type Folk
 - i. Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- ii. Ac 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to shepherd the church** of God which He purchased with His own blood.
- b. Non-pastor/teacher Folk
 - i. Ro 12:4-8 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing **according to the grace that is given to us**, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
 - ii. 1Pe 4:10-11 **As each one has received a gift**, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as **with the ability which God supplies**, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 4. for the purpose of
 - a. edification of the body
 - i. Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
 - ii. 1Co 14:12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.
 - b. to maturity –
 - i. Eph 4:13- till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
 - ii. Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

B. The Natural Tendency

- 1. Looking to the Pastor/teacher type folk to do all ministry
 - a. Comes from the Catholic doctrine of Peter being the rock upon which Christ would build His Church – Mt 16:18

- i. The concept of **ecclesiastical hierarchy** is the pecking order of the clergy, and high-ranking clergy are considered to be **ecclesiastical** authorities. This concept comes with the idea of Secular is the opposite of **ecclesiastical**
 - ii. The **hierarchy of the Church** came into being when Christ chose twelve of his disciples to be Apostles with St. Peter as their head. It **developed** when they ordained other men as bishops, priests, and deacons.
 - b. Also comes with the unbiblical concept of the clergy having a spirituality that cannot be experienced by the laity – Gal 6:1
- 2. Thinking all must or should minister as I do
 - a. Paul speaks to the division caused by this concept in 1 Co 3:1-9
 - i. Points out the immaturity of thinking like this 1Co 3:1-3a
 - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal.
 - ii. Points out the problem and its results – 1 Co 3:3b-4
 - For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?
 - iii. Points out the difference of gifts and ministries as being part of God's plan – 1 Co 3:5-9
 - Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.
 - b. Paul also speaks to the diversity and unity of the Body in 1 Co 12
 - i. He contrasts his desires for them with the ignorance of Gentiles – vs 1-2
 - ii. He points out that differences in gifts or ministries is not a sign of not being saved, but according to God's design – vs 3-6
 - iii. What the manifestation of the Spirit looks like – vs 7-11
 - iv. Description of the body in its unity and diversity – vs 12-26
 - v. Importance of the gifts in order – vs 27-28
 - vi. Importance of diversity – vs 29-30
 - vii. Introduction of a more excellent way. - vs 31