

EPHESIANS 4.7-13

GRACE GIFTS

*Christ gifts each believer to serve and shape the body
so that Christ's mature fullness is displayed before all.*

Cov-Pres

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1: Each believer is gifted by Christ the grace-gift giver.

Eph 4:7-8

But -- this "but" is an explanatory contrast: Paul will now show aspects of how we as individuals fit into the great unity of the church he declared in his preceding paragraphs.

to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift

1 Corinthians 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**

Romans 12:3 **For through the grace given to me I say** to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, **as God has allotted to each** a measure of faith.

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together **by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Each one is grace-gifted

Christ is the gift-distributor (1Co 12.7 & [by the Spirit, 12.11])

Therefore it says, WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH...

Ephesians 4:8 Therefore it says,
"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

Psalm 68 (See also Isaiah 65-66 & Revelation 21-22)

- 1 Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, And let those who hate Him flee before Him.
5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows,
Is God in His holy habitation. 6 God makes a home for the lonely;
He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.
9b You confirmed Your inheritance when it was parched.
10 Your creatures settled in it; You provided in Your goodness for the poor, O God.
16 Why do you look with envy, O mountains with *many* peaks,
At the mountain which God has desired for His abode? Surely the LORD will dwell *there* forever.
17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; The Lord is among them *as at* Sinai, in holiness.
18 **You have ascended on high, You have led captive *Your* captives; You have received gifts among men,**

Even among the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell there.

- 24 They have seen Your procession, O God, The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.
26 Bless God in the congregations, 29 Because of Your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring gifts to You.
32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, Sing praises to the Lord, Selah.
34 Ascribe strength to God; His majesty is over Israel And His strength is in the skies.
35 O God, *You are* awesome from Your sanctuary.

As Jerusalem's temple's *Court of the Gentiles* represented Israel's gathering place for Gentile God-fearers so Christ's body/temple is the sanctuary for worship and Sabbath rest where he gathers his disciples from all nations.

9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

2: Leaders are given to equip each believer to his/her work.

Eph

4:11-12

Leadership roles are important (see also, 1 Cor 12:27-28)

***And He gave some as apostles,
and some as prophets,
and some as evangelists,
and some as pastors and teachers,***

Leaders are important for a reason (the *purpose* for which Christ's "captives" are gifted)

for the equipping of the saints

See 1 Corinthians: we tend choose/reward on giftedness over character & maturity/wisdom in using gifts; Paul applauds not the great orator but the ones who equip the people for their work.

for the work of service/ministry

Jeremiah 1:9-10 9 Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

10 "See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, To pluck up and to break down, To destroy and to overthrow, To build and to plant."

Matthew 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

We are to use our gifts/talents/hearts of care to build up others: *you often find your gifts/giftedness by discerning what most encourages you as you serve and also brings grace-centered gratefulness to others.*

3: The gifts and work are given so that Christ in his mature fullness may shine forth. Eph 4:12c-13

to the building up of the body of Christ

until we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God

0 eternal existence, 1 incarnation, 2 sinless life, 3 atoning death, 4 bodily resurrection, 5 bodily ascension, 6 session in heaven, 7 Pentecost & outpouring, 8 intercession & 9 bodily return

to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

We are the one man and together must have our senses trained to discern good and evil (Heb 5.14; see 1Co 2.6; 14.20); our goal is nothing less than the display of the glory of Christ.

Eight Ministry Style/Preferences

Analytical (56%): Adventurous, **Organizer (37%),** Strategizer, Entrepreneurial

Connectional (44%): Expressive, Fellowship, Inspirational, **Relational (26%)**

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.