

## RENOVATE RE-GIFTING OURSELVES

Ephesians 4:7 – 13

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January 19/20, 2019

## MESSAGE NOTES

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When He ascended on high, He took many captives and gave gifts to His people." (What does "He ascended" mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) — Ephesians 4:7–10*

1. The giver of great gifts.

*So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers ... — Ephesians 4:11*

2. The leadership gifts given to the church.

- apostles
- prophets
- evangelists
- teachers and pastors

*... to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. — Ephesians 4:12*

3. The purpose of all the gifts being given.

*All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them. — Oswald Chambers*

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:16–17*

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. — 1 Peter 4:10–11*

*For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, ... — 2 Timothy 1:6*

When we're all taking part in this great thing called "church" ...

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. — Ephesians 4:14*

- Everybody pulls together, becomes stronger, and develops spiritual maturity.

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. — 1 Corinthians 12:27*

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. — Ephesians 4:15*

- Everybody helps everybody else grow closer to Christ.

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. — Romans 12:4 – 6*

*It can be said without qualification that no human being can consider himself mature if he narrows the use of his efforts, talents, or means to his own personal advantage. The very concept of maturity rests on the degree of inner growth that is characterized by a yearning within the individual to transcend his self-concentration by extending himself into the lives of others. In other words, maturity is a stage in his development when to live with himself in a satisfying manner it becomes imperative for him to give as well as to receive. — Alan Goesser, *Keys To Successful Living**

*From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. — Ephesians 4:16*

- Everybody feels valued and nobody atrophies spiritually .

*Nobody is a whole chain. Each one is a link. But take away one link and the chain is broken. Nobody is a whole team. Each one is a player. But take away one player and the game is forfeited. Nobody is a whole orchestra. Each one is a musician. But take away one musician and the symphony is incomplete. Nobody is whole play. Each one is an actor. But take away one actor and the story gets lost. Our story as Christ's representatives on earth, requires all of us to tell it in unison. We all play a part. — Chuck Swindoll*

So consider...

- What sort of ministries are you gifted for?
- How are you using your gifts to build up others in the body of Christ?
- Is there an area of ministry you'd be open to considering in the future and what next step could you take in that direction?

Here is a link to the podcast where you can download a spiritual gifts inventory PDF based on Rick Warren's S.H.A.P.E. model for helping to identify how God has gifted you personally; [encounterlife.org/messages/shape](http://encounterlife.org/messages/shape)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Even though our weekend focused on Ephesians 4:7 –16, for context, go ahead and read the chapter 4:1 – 16.
- How many times is the word "unity" or "one" used in this section?
- How many different ways are those words used?
- In what ways are we dependent on the Spirit for unity and in what ways are we responsible for pursuing it?
- How would you describe what Paul refers to as "the bond of peace?"
- How is unity different than uniformity?
- As Christ gives gifts out of His grace, some are gifted for leading the churches, spreading the Gospel and teaching others. What is the purpose of all those gifts noted in v.12?
- How would you describe "works of service" in Christ's church?
- What does it mean to "build up the body of Christ?"
- What is the end goal of all this as noted in v.13?
- Why is growing toward maturity so important for believers (v.14)?
- Rather than being fragmented and disjointed, what qualities should describe us as mature followers of Jesus (v.15)?
- Paul ends the section by pointing out we all have some part to play in this. How do you believe God has gifted you for service and how are you seeking to live that out?