

Gifted to Equip

November 28th & 29th, 2015

Ephesians 4:11-12

Jesus imparted gifts to His church

- ❖ Jesus gave His church apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers.

Gifts: (Doma) “lends greater stress to the concrete character of the ‘gift,’ than to its beneficent nature.”¹

- ❖ The individuals, called and gifted by God, who are recognized in Ephesians 4:11 are themselves, in their very character, gifts to His church!

“The church may appoint men to different work and functions, but unless they have the gifts of the Spirit, and therefore are themselves the gifts of Christ to His Church, their appointment is valueless. The expression also serves well to remind ministers that the gifts of the Spirit are not for the enrichment of oneself but for the enrichment of the Church.”²

Jesus supernaturally prepared leaders to serve His people

- ❖ Apostle – one who is sent

f The Bible presents three classes of apostles.

1. The Great Apostle – Jesus *Hebrews 3:1*

2. The Twelve Apostles *Luke 6:13*

3. The Other Apostles: Paul *Ephesians 1:1*; Barnabas *Acts 14:14*; James *Galatians 1:19*

f Apostles, such as Paul and Barnabas, were sent out from the church at Antioch to the work to which God had called them (*Acts 13:1-3*). They proclaimed God’s Word, established churches, and appointed elders.

f Apostles were used by God to establish a good foundation on which the church would grow. *Ephesians 2:20*

- ❖ Prophet – one who proclaims a divine message

f Prophets were part of the early church. *Acts 13:1*

f Prophets were recognized and respected for their words. *Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-14*

f Prophets were used by God to establish a good foundation for the church, (*Ephesians 2:20*) and to encourage and strengthen believers. *Acts 15:32*

- ❖ Evangelist – proclaimer of the Gospel

f Evangelists, such as Phillip (*Acts 21:8*), were part of the early church.

f Timothy was exhorted by Paul to “do the work of an evangelist”. *2 Timothy 4:5*

- ❖ Shepherd – one who tends a flock

f Pastors or Shepherds take care of the sheep, feeding, protecting, nurturing, and leading them.

f Elders are also called to shepherd the flock of God. *1 Peter 5:1-4*

f Shepherding requires exercising oversight and being an example to follow. *1 Corinthians 11:1*

- ❖ Teacher – one who gives instruction

f Godly teachers teach the truth of God’s Word! *2 Timothy 4:1-2*

f God’s Word cannot be understood without the Holy Spirit! *1 Corinthians 2:14*

f Beware of false teachers and false prophets! *2 Peter 2:1*

God has gifted leaders to equip the saints for the ministry.
“*And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds
and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry,**
for building up the body of Christ,*” Ephesians 4:11-12

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Foulkes, Francis. *The Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians, an introduction and commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.
(Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

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