

Message preached on Wednesday, January 29, 2025

START: With a look back...quickly...

- 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
- 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

BELOVED: It is so important to understand that we do NOT have the same responsibilities, but we are all important to the fulfillment of the BODY of Christ.

If the BODY of Christ would operate how it is suppose to...the enemy would definitely be useless in this world...the Kingdom of God would DEFINITELY advance.

It would be AMAZING to see the BODY of Christ actually operate as ONE...as a BODY! **YET,** we spend more time questioning the TITHE, the SEED, or JUST SHOWING UP!

BELOVED: We are not an organization...we are an organism!

REMEMBER: Our CREATOR, God, has PLACED you in the BODY (in your position) EXACTLY where HE KNOWS you will grow...you will be best fit...you will INCREASE and PROSPER.

THINK ABOUT IT: 1 Corinthians 12:18 tells us we have been placed AS IT PLEASES HIM.

QUESTION: What pleases God according to Psalm 35:27? Prosperity of His servants!

1 Corinthians 3:8 – "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."

Romans 8:28 – "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

NOTICE: You get REWARDED according to where you have been placed...where you have been called.

If you have been given the call to be a hand...and you are trying to operate as an eye...you will not see the reward you think you should get.

If you are a pastor and you are trying to be an apostle..or an evangelist trying to be a pastor...you will be frustrated in your place.

- Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
- 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

We begin three verses that identify our differences in the body.

There are three different lists of gifts that have been given to the BODY of Christ, in the New Testament.

Romans 12 – The Motivational Gifts (what motivates the parts of the body)

Ephesians 4 – The Ministry Gifts (what ministers to the body)

1 Corinthians 12 – The Manifestation Gifts (what manifests in the body)

NOTE: 1 Peter 4 gives us a few service gifts...but they all are listed right here in Romans 12. (we will cover all of these gifts, to make sure we get the full picture of the body of Christ)

"Differing according to the grace given to us"

"Grace" - God's ability in us to do what we couldn't do on our own.

BASICALLY: God enabling us to do these things...to operate in these function.

<u>1 Peter 4:10</u> – "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Ephesians 4:7 – "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

The more responsibility that comes with any gift...the more GRACE God will give you to accomplish that gift.

UNDERSTAND: ESSENTIAL: Which is more important? They all are most important!

QUESTION: Who is the gift for? The individual?

ANSWER: No! The gift is for the BODY.

<u>Ephesians 4:8</u> – "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

THINK OF IT LIKE THIS: God has given the gift to the BODY...through the individual.

Therefore, we are NOT to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think.

Each gift is for the same thing...the body.

The Motivational Gifts

(AMP) – "6b ... [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ [He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching; ⁸ He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity and liberality; he who gives aid and superintends, with zeal and singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness."

This group is for the WHOLE body to function in...we will all have one or more of these gifts.

If you don't think you do...then the enemy is lying to you.

UNDERSTAND: If there is someone who is NOT stepping to the plate in their gift (in a smaller body), God will equip others to do it until they do step up.

Just because you have these gifts, does not mean you have a five-fold ministry gift.

1.) Prophecy – a gift to see things in a prophetic way.

NOTE: Not the same thing as the ministry gift of a prophet or the manifestation gift of prophecy. This has to do with KNOWING that you know. This is the way a prophet operates.

A clear opinion on things. A clear picture. Black and white. Up or down. In or out.

ILLUSTRATION: Dad used to have problems making the list for the conferences...he would call someone with this gift to get help...that guy would say, "Do what you want...you are the apostle. Quit worrying about everyone else!"

Someone with this gift will think in terms of GET 'ER DONE! Now! Quit delaying!

UNDERSTAND: This is NOT how everyone views things.

When someone with this motivational gift comes around...they can be annoyed by people who operate in the other six gifts...because they are focused on getting it done now.

2.) Ministry (serving) – seeing things that need to get done

This is basically the ministry of helps. Cleaning, lawn, are we out of things...

This person is often doing things.

A person like this sees everything that needs to get done...and bringing it up or doing it.

NOTE: If you are a person who walks through the church and notices things that annoy you (because they are out of place or not clean)...you're job isn't just to complain...but to serve.

NOTE: Pastors can have this gift too.

Listen, don't get upset if your gift is a SERVE and people come up to you and ask you what they can do...they don't see it the way you do.

3.) Teaches – a natural tendency to tell you what that Word says.

They will always bring up Scripture.

NOTE: This will annoy the pants off a server. :-)

IMPORTANT: This does NOT mean that you are a pastor/teacher...it just means you are in the Word. What you do and why do things in the body is to talk the Word.

ESSENTIAL REMINDER: We all have one of these gifts...but it doesn't mean that we don't help others when they see things. The teacher gift is a jerk if they are asked to serve and they don't! "But, it is their gift, not mine!" Or you are just lazy!

4.) Exhorter – they see the need to pump other up and build them up...encourage them.

Their focus it to turn the frown upside down!

Their favorite phrase is, "Is everything okay?" or "Everything is going to be alright."

WITH THAT SAID: Often we want to shoot the exhorter when they get attached to us, because we want to be bummed out.

Again, we are all called to exhort one another...so when someone comes up to you and says, "We need to encourage this person or that person," we need to recognize their gift.

IMPORTANT: Don't just be a person who tells everyone else to do what you see...you see these things for a purpose (to do things).

INSIGHT: If you try and put someone with ONE GIFT into another one, they will get very frustrated. (SOMEONE who is a server...being asked to teach.)

5.) Giver – they see the need to give to an area. Financial!

Many don't want this gift, because they don't want to be the person that has to give all the time.

- 1.) You don't get to choose...God placed it on you.
- Everyone is called to give...you just are a person who sees the need.
 It does NOT exclude you from giving...but you will open the eyes to others to give.

AGAIN: Don't get frustrated when people are not giving in an area (by themselves), because that may not be their gift...you need to bring it up.

Your eyes will go to where the needs are located.

IMPORTANT: This is a gift for the BODY. So, where are these people giving? To the Salvation Army? Good will? Maybe! Missions? Probably.

HOWEVER: Most of your giving will be done IN THE BODY. People...the ministry, itself.

6.) Ruleth – the gift of administration or organization.

This person has a gift of getting things done...and how to get things done.

This gift is essential, we just don't like seeing someone with this gift coming our way.

This person sees what needs to be done and won't necessarily go grab a towel (like the server) but a person to get it done.

At a church get-together a server will be busy doing everything (while everyone else watch and talks the Word)...but an administrator will find out what is needed and assign everyone to different jobs.

NOTE: This doesn't keep them from helping...it is just what they see. *Again, don't be lazy!*

7.) Mercy – you see good...kindness...take it easy on people.

When everyone else is ready to throw out the baby with the bathwater...you are ready to save 'em!

You take things slow (which will annoy the one with prophecy gift).

BELOVED: You will see things, in the church, according to your motivational gift. It is amazing how God balances things out...that is why we are all different.

If we all do our gifts...then nothing will get missed.