

Ephesians 4:7-13

We just finished looking at the seven pillars of the church. These are things that cause a church to be a church and the believers to be united and one as the body of Christ. Now Paul is giving us personal information on what we are to do with what God has given each of us and the importance of the gifts we have.

1. **God gave us Grace – vs. 7** – God has given each of us a measure of grace. He gave it to us according to His measure and what He decided we needed. Look at 4 things here.
 - a. Each one received this from God
 - b. Each one received the same Grace
 - c. Each one received a specific measure of grace
 - d. Each one received God's gift (no charge) – Grace
2. **God has the power to give gifts – vs. 8-10** – Only God can give spiritual gifts. Only He knows what gifts we need and how we need to use them.
 - a. God descended – Where did He descend to? Hell
 - b. God ascended – Where did He ascend to? Heaven
3. **God gave us gifts – vs. 11** – Here are some of the gifts God gives us.
 - a. Apostles – One who is sent with a commission.
 - b. Prophets – One who proclaims the Word of God.
 - c. Evangelists – Bearers of the Gospel, the Good News.
 - d. Pastors – One who shepherds God's people.
 - e. Teachers – A shepherd who feeds the flock the Word of God.
4. **God has a purpose of our gifts – vs. 12** – Paul tells us here that there is a reason for each of us to have a gift.
 - a. *To equip the believer* – each of us needs to be equipped to do what God has created us for. We need special gifts and talents and abilities to carry out His plan for us. If we are to succeed and have significance, we will need to know and use the gifts God has given us.
 - b. *To edify or build up the believer* – we cannot be more than our natural man will allow without the constant indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the daily spiritual growth that comes from time spent with God in prayer and private devotion. This is how we learn who God is and how to appropriate His power and use the gifts He has given each of us. Without this we are weak and ineffective as believers.
5. **God has a goal for each of us – vs. 13** – Again Paul is telling us the value of unity and the body of Christ.
 - a. Unity is possible – “until we all attain”
 - b. Knowledge is possible
 - c. We are to strive to be grown up (mature) Christians
 - d. The fullness and likeness of Christ is our standard