

Christ's Gifts to His Church

Text: Ephesians 4:7-11

Main Idea: With great authority, Jesus gives gifts to His Church to accomplish His purpose in the world for the advancement of His Kingdom.

- 1. Christ's gifts to Individuals in the Church:** Jesus Christ graciously gives _____ **each** _____ member of the Church a gift according to His measure. (v. 7)
 - Since the gifts are given sovereignly they shouldn't be _____ **sought** _____ out, nor unused, nor exalted above others. (1 Peter 4:10, Rom 12:6, 1 Cor 12:4-7)
 - The lists of gifts are found in Rom 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:8-10 & Eph 4:11.
 - To spurn the gift that Jesus has given us is an affront to God's wisdom, a snub of His _____ **love** _____ and a loss to the Church.
- 2. Christ's Authority to Give Gifts:** Jesus has every **right** to give gifts to the Church because He not only descended but ascended and led a host of captives that He might fill all things. (v. 8-10, Ps 68:18)
 - **He descended:** Christ extremely descended from the highest heaven in the depth of His _____ **incarnation** _____, being born of a woman, living on the earth, experiencing a horrifying death & burial and even descending into hell after His death to make a triumphant victory announcement to the demons. (1 Pet 3:18-19, Col 2:15).
 - **He ascended far above:** Christ was exalted and ascended into heaven to His exalted place where He **reigns** with His Father forever and ever. (Acts 1:9-11)
 - **He led a host of captives:** Christ conquered Satan, sin & death and by that great victory recaptured those who were _____ **prisoners** _____ of the enemy and returned to God with His people who belonged to Him.
 - **He gave gifts to men:** Upon arriving in heaven, like a triumphant conqueror Jesus distributed the _____ **spoils** _____ to His subjects. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to give the gifts. (Jn 7:39, 14:12)
 - **He fills all things:** Because of His great victory, Christ fulfilled all prophecy, all assigned _____ **tasks** _____ and has a universal sovereignty and control over His Church.
- 3. Christ's Gifts to the Whole Church:** Jesus gifted the church with godly **leaders**. (11)
 - **Apostles & Prophets:** Both the Apostles & Prophets were unique offices used by God to lay the foundation of the Church (Eph 2:20). The Apostles appointed by Christ Himself, & eye witnesses of the resurrection of Christ (Acts 1:22), received direct revelation & were authenticated by "signs and wonders and miracles" (2 Cor

12:12). Prophets were second to the Apostles and spoke for God. These offices have passed away.

- **Evangelists:** Men who proclaim the Gospel, the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. New Testament evangelists were church planters & even pastors. (2 Tim 4:5, Acts 8:4-40, Philip)
- **Pastors & Teachers:** Local leaders (elders, pastors, overseers – same office) in the church shepherd, oversee and care for the Church. They teach the Word feeding the flock and guarding them with the Truth. The congregation is called to submit and obey their leaders as men who are responsible for the feeding and protecting of their souls. (1 Tim 3:1-5, 5:17, 1 Thess 5:12, Heb 13:7, Tit 1:7-9, Acts 20:28, 1 Pet 5:1-5, James 5:14)