

THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS

(Ephesians 4:7-16)

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVEN TO THE BODY OF CHRIST

A. The Spiritual Gifts Guaranteed by Christ (4:7-10)

1. In His infinite wisdom, and to make each dependent on _____, Christ has ordained not uniformity, but an endless _____ of _____ for members of His Body. (v. 7)

2. As our conquering _____, Jesus has liberated us from Satan's _____ of sin and death (v. 8); He has ascended on high in the place of honor. (vv. 9-10)

B. The Spiritual Gifts Assigned by Christ (4:11)

1. Those who are named here were to lead and to exercise their gifts and ministries in such a way as to encourage other members of the local church to exercise their own respective gifts.
 - a. APOSTLES: The Twelve men plus Paul were the apostles in the strictest sense; they had been _____ appointed by Jesus and had personally _____ the _____ Christ. (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 9:1-2; 15:8-9; Gal. 1:1, Eph. 2:20).

 - b. PROPHETS: On occasion prophets _____ future events (2:20; 3:5; Acts 11:28; 21:10-11), although his primary function was to provide _____, exhortation, and _____ to truth that God had previously revealed (cf. Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 14:3, 26-33; Eph. 3:5).

 - c. EVANGELISTS: These gifted believers preached the gospel at _____ and traveled _____ to win the lost to Christ. (Acts 8:5-40; 21:8, 28; 2 Tim. 4:5)

 - d. PASTORS-TEACHERS: These two characteristics refer to the _____ person; "*pastors*" _____ the flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4), and as "*teachers*" they also _____ the sheep the Word of God (2 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:9).

C. The Purpose of the Spiritual Gifts (4:12-16)

1. The purpose of these gifted leaders was to “*equip*” (Gr. *katartismos*) God’s people for the _____ of _____. (v. 12a)

2. With all of the _____ saints ministering together as one, the goal of this service was to _____ the _____ of Christ. (v. 12b, cf. Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 14:12, 26; Eph. 4:16, 29; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 13:21)

3. The word translated “*till*” indicates that a certain end must be achieved. (v. 13)
 - a. “*till we _____ come to the _____ of the _____*”

 - b. “*till we _____ come to the _____ of the Son of God*”

 - c. “*till we _____ become a _____ man, to...the _____ of Christ*”

4. This unity, knowledge, and maturity should result in _____
in being able to recognize the counterfeit of _____ teaching. (v. 14)

5. The church that stresses both the _____ and _____ will produce spiritually mature believers who are being transformed into the _____ of Christ. (v. 15)

6. This picture of a healthy Body is one that is perfectly “*joined and knit together*”, where _____ member is willing to do his/her _____; as a result, all of this brings forth growth and _____. (v. 16)

* What can you personally apply from this powerful passage?