

Fully Equipped

Ephesians 4:7, 11-13







7 But to each one of us
grace was given
according to the
measure of Christ's
gift.

“Grace” (*charis*)

EPHESIANS

We Know That We Have
Been Saved *By Grace*
Through Faith

Is Paul Talking About The
Same Thing Here?

Ephesians 1:7-8a

EPHESIANS

7 In Him we have (1) redemption through His blood, (2) the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us.

Re: Ephesians 1:7-8a

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In salvation, we have “redemption” and “forgiveness” “according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”



But in Gifting

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We are given grace “according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”



However...

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Don't Miss the Common Truth:

Both our Salvation and
our Gifts are Given by
God

Two Truths

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1. Every believer has received grace (unmerited favor and divine enablement) from God.
2. God does not give each Christian the same measure of grace in gifting.

Romans 12:4-6a

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4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly...

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

EPHESIANS

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.





Two Dangers

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1. Those who view themselves as having received special endowments might overestimate their importance.
2. Those who view themselves as lacking in special gifts might lose courage and fail to exercise their gifts.

Our Attitude Must Be: EPHESIANS

“I have received my gift, be it great or small, from Christ Himself. I must use it, therefore, as He requires. The Giver will not fail me when I use my gift for the benefit of all.”

• William Hendriksen



Warren Wiersbe:

“Gifts are not toys to play with. They are tools to build with. And if they are not used in love, they become weapons to fight with...”

Harold Hoehner:

EPHESIANS

“The difference of the gift does not determine the value. The difference of value is determined only by the individual’s use of it within the body.”





**Earl
“The Goat”
Manigault**

4:11 is Different...

EPHESIANS

In Romans 12 and 1
Corinthians 12, Paul spoke
of gifts given to people,
and he speaks here of
people given to the church
as gifts.

Let Me Also Say:

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It is the
responsibility of the
church to produce
and affirm the
leaders.

Ephesians 4:11

EPHESIANS

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers

4 Gifts to the Church

EPHESIANS

1. Apostles (*apostolos*)
 2. Prophets (*prophētēs*)
-

3. Evangelists (*euaggelistes*)
4. Pastors and Teachers (*poimēnas kai didaskalos*)

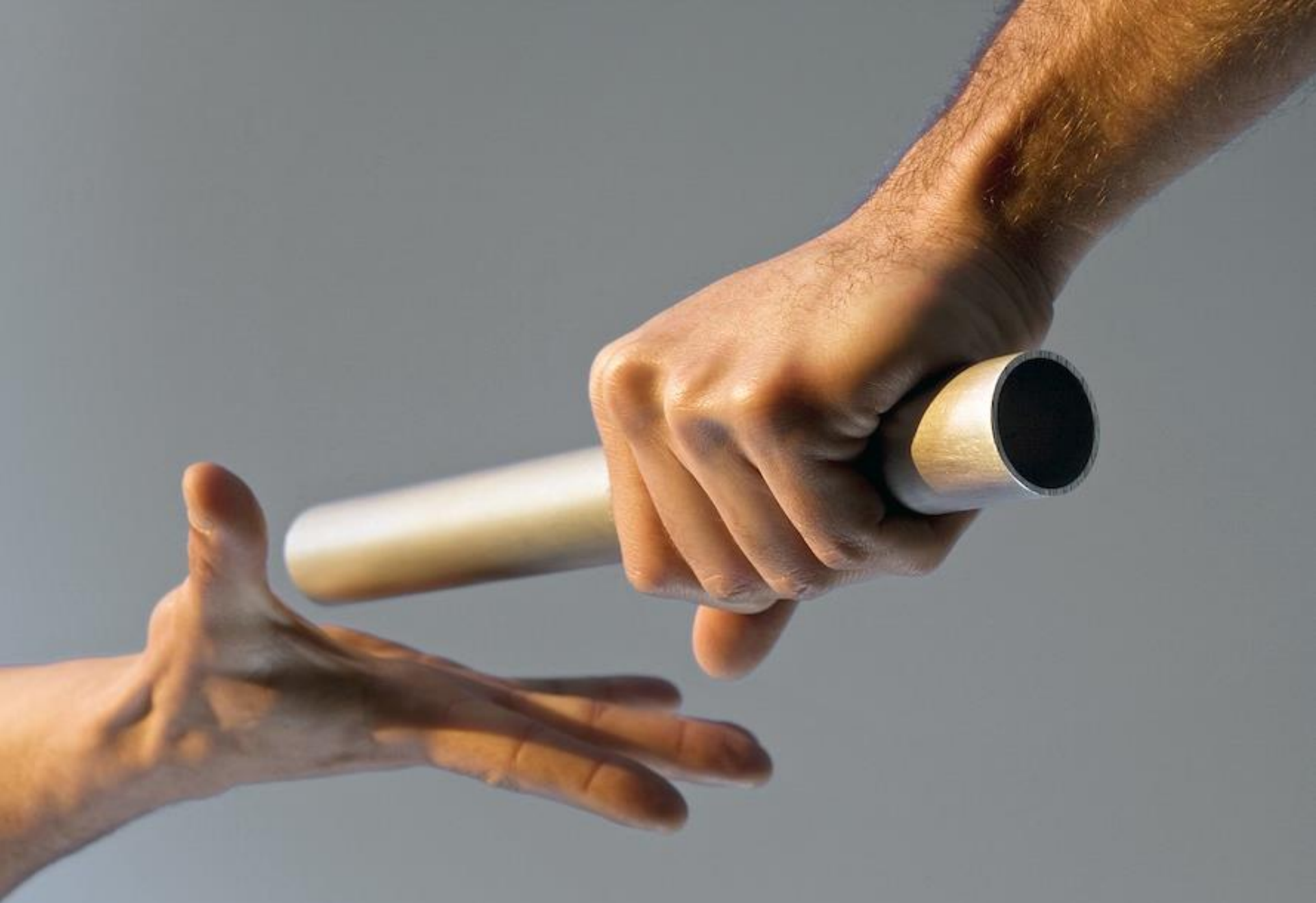
Christ gave gifted people to the church
as gifts to the church.

Kent Hughes:

EPHESIANS

Calls the first two groups “foundational gifts” to the Church.

“The apostles and prophets were given to the Church to get her established, but now their role is assumed by the canonical writings of the New Testament.”



4 Gifts to the Church

EPHESIANS

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 2. Prophets (*prophētēs*)
-

3. Evangelists (*euaggelistes*)
4. Pastors and Teachers (*poimēnas kai didaskalos*)

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as gifts to the church.

4. Pastors & Teachers EPHESIANS

- **Some argue:**

The Greek construction is better understood, “pastor-teacher; the article appears only before pastor.

- **Others say:**

Since both pastors and teachers are in the plural, they are two separate but connected gifts, in that all pastors are teachers but not all teachers are pastors.

Pastor (*poimenos*)

EPHESIANS

- This is the only time in the NT that the word is used as a noun.
- It most commonly used as in 1 Peter 5:2 –
“**shepherd** the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness”







John 21:15-17

All Four Gifts

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Have Something in
Common:

**TEACHING &
DISCIPLESHIP**



Why?

Ephesians 4:12

EPHESIANS

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ

Hebrews 13:20-21

EPHESIANS

20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,
21 *equip* you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

This is a Job Description EPHESIANS

- “equipping” (*katartismos*)
 - The leaders’ job is preparing, mending, or restoring people to their proper use.
 - The role of these leaders is to minister the Word to the saints in the church so the saints can minister the Word in the world.

And So:

EPHESIANS

Once the saints are equipped, what are they to do?

Serve (*diakonia*)

For what reason?

“To the building up of the body of Christ.”

(Qualitative, not Quantitative)

All the Saints

EPHESIANS

Should participate in service,
not just the leaders.

The leader is equipped to
equip the saints.

The church is a self-
reproducing organism.

1 Timothy 3:15

EPHESIANS

15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, *the pillar and support* of the truth.



Ephesians 4:13

EPHESIANS

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Notice:

EPHESIANS

“until we all attain”

ALL
Y'ALL

“until we all attain”

EPHESIANS

1. “the unity of the faith”
2. “the knowledge of the Son of God”
3. “to a mature man (manhood)”
4. “to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ”

1. “the unity of the faith” EPHESIANS

- Believers should be in agreement concerning the truths of Scripture.

- **Jude 3** –

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for **the faith** which was once for all handed down to the saints.”

2. “the knowledge of the Son of God”

EPHESIANS

- In the same way, believers must be unified in their affirmation of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- **Matthew 16:15-16** –

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

3. “to a mature man”

EPHESIANS

- Certainly there is an individual pursuit of maturity for every believer, but there is also a corporate pursuit for the church.
- **Mature followers of Christ know what they believe and why they believe it; they are committed and not fickle; they approach conflict biblically and work for restoration; they are committed.**



4. “to the measure of the
stature which belongs
to the fullness of Christ”

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In other words:
Be Like Christ.

Turn to
Philippians 2:1-16

The Result:

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As each believer functions in accord with the gift(s) Christ has given him the body as a whole enjoys unity and becomes more spiritually mature, more like Jesus Christ in all His fullness.

So, I Must Ask:

EPHESIANS

**Where Are You
Utilizing Your Gifts In
The Church “To The
Building Up Of The
Body Of Christ?”**

EPHESIANS