



Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

Using the Gifts



# Ephesians: Using the Gifts



## Ephesians 4:7-14

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup> (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

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<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.



# Ephesians: Using the Gifts



## Last Week:

- God Gifts Every Believer

- 1 Cor. 12:7, Rom. 12:5-6, Eph. 4:7-9

- Gifts and Measure Determined by God

- 1 Cor. 12:11, Eph. 4:7

- Prepared Works for us to Participate in

- Eph. 2:10

- Given Equipping Gifts to Body

- Eph. 4:11-12

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## Aims of the Gifts

- Building Up the Body
- Unity of Faith / Knowledge of Jesus
- Corporate Personality of Christlikeness
- Anchored and Rooted



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## Ephesians 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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## 1. Speaking the Truth in Love

### a) posture

- Phil. 2:5-8 'have this mind among you...'
- Humility the key
- John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
- Knowledge without love puffs up 1 Cor. 8:1
- Love without knowledge is aimless and confusing Phil. 1:9



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## **b) Motivation – In Love**

- motivation matters 1 Cor. 13:1-3 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”



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- 1 Cor. 13:4-8 “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends.”

- Love is....
- Love does not.....
- Love does.....

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## c) Methods

- speaks the truth, not simply believes and hopes that is enough
- courage to communicate
- time to find and use words well
- Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”



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## 2. Growth and Connectedness

### a) More than Proximity

- know lots of people on the surface
- joined together – known, relationship
- programs just platforms, opportunities

### b) Contact Points where Growth Occurs

- this is where we practically do the ‘one anothers’
- serving and putting others first

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## c) Every gift Equipped and Connected

- equipped – supplied, fixed, prepared
- connected – in relationship
- working – active participation

## d) growth is the outcome

- visible
- measurable
- impacting



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## 3. Source and Directions

### a) Christ the Head

- sending directions to the body
- co-ordination – parts working in harmony
- seeing & understanding

### b) Christ is the Source

- his plan, empowerment, grace
- He enables this all

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## So What?

### 1. Speak the truth in love

- critical to growth, using your gift
- check your – posture, motivation
- take great care with method

### 2. Get Joined Together

- not about programs and attendance
- is about relationships, living as one known
- ask God what walls are preventing this



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## 3. Listen and Respond to God

- he is sending the impulses to the body
- how are you listening?
  - asking each day to reveal where you are invited to be a part of what He prepared
  - expectant He will show and invite
- are you willing to respond?
  - be a part of healthy mature body of Christ