

Discovering Your Place In The Body of Christ: 3

The Five-Fold Ministry Gifts

Romans 12. 6-8; 1 Corinthians 12. 8-10; Ephesians 4. 11-12

Ephesians 4. 7-16

Christ “gave some to be..” (vs11) -

- Given by Jesus Christ and placed in His Church to accomplish specific tasks and purposes.
- Not every member of the Body will become one of these gifts - but that does not mean that those who don't have one of these 'ministries' are any less important to the Body.
- There are five gifts and they each have a specific function.
- Every church should contain at least one of each of these gifts, or most certainly should have access to all them:

Apostles

- The word apostle means 'sent one' - the apostle has a strong sense of mission.
- The apostle is still a valid ministry gift to the Body today and did not end with the first century apostles - since we have not yet fulfilled the qualifier of verse 13 '..till we all come to the unity of the faith'
- The apostle is a person gifted by God to
 1. establish a local community of believers (church)
 2. assist them in laying down a strong and firm Scriptural foundation
 3. to appoint elders to carry on the work.
- Ideally the apostle should be 'sent out' from a church for this purpose - ensures prayerful support and accountability.

Many of the missionaries 'sent out' by churches are actually apostles

Prophets

- The Prophet also is still a valid ministry to the Body of Christ.
- The Prophet's function is elevate the spiritual vision of the Church, to keep it current and relevant and to enable God's people to focus on the goals that God has for them.
- We must not confuse the office of Prophet with:
 1. the basic gift of prophecy – this is a tendency toward preaching
 2. the spiritual gift of prophecy - supernatural ability to speak out a word that has not been prepared - a word for the moment
- The prophet is an instrument of divine revelation to whom God's word is revealed – this word usually lies in his heart for a period of time until it becomes one with him. This gives him the ability to speak the word of God with the heart of God in the issue.

Evangelists

- An evangelist has the gift to bring large numbers of people to the Lord.
- There is no mention of evangelism in the basic gifts or the spiritual gifts.
- The evangelist is the arm of the Body that reaches out to the lost world

- Every born again believer is called to do the work of an evangelist - you do not need a gift to do that

Pastors

- A pastor is a person who guides and guards the people of God in a local community
- The pastor is a spiritual shepherd with care over the sheep - encouraging them to develop and mature
- The nature of the gift of pastor will make him aware of the needs of believers within the community and not just his own particular group
- A pastor ought to be free to move through a number of churches for which he has responsibility - giving them the benefit of his wisdom and advice.

Teacher

- The teacher has the ability to open up the Scriptures and make profound truths simple
- A teacher ought to be moving from church to church bringing important spiritual truths - teaching his hearers how to resolve problems and issues they face in the light of God's Word.

- The *basic gift* of a teacher is slightly different:
 - these operate within a local community of believers such as a Sunday School group or house group.
 - In these groups the Bible is taught and interpreted in relation to one's individual life.

- The *Ministry gift* of teacher however, addresses deeper problems which arise and need to be dealt with by those who have a grasp of Biblical principles
 - These teachers are able to resolve those problems through sound, systematic and clear teaching of the Word of God.