

Recap-True believers are going to walk completely different when Jesus is King of their life. Paul list six attributes that describe the church.

1. Lowliness or humility
2. Gentleness or meekness
3. Longsuffering or patience
4. Love-agape
5. Peace
6. Unity of the Spirit

Immediately following these attributes, he leads us into church leadership who are to model these characteristics of Jesus Christ in how they lead, setting an example for all to follow.

***Ephesians 4:7-16** 7But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."*

9(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift
Each believer in the body of Christ has received the grace of Jesus Christ, therefore every believer is responsible to use the measure of grace given to minister to His body with the gifts that they have been given. His body is meant to work together, and everyone is meant to have a significant part.

***Eph. 4:8-9** Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended*

into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Paul explains in order for Christ to ascend, He had to first descend. He humbled Himself and was exalted above all. In doing this Christ not only set the captives free, He triumphed over all principalities and powers. Paul references Psalm 68 which references God setting Israel free from the bondage of Israel and then all of the treasures of Egypt were given to God's people.

Philippians 2:5-11 5Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus, who is the standard, shows us what humility looks like. This is why Paul says that we are to walk worthy of the calling. When we look to the Worthy One we see a humble King who left the throne, taking the form of a bondservant, humbling Himself, becoming obedient to death!

So before we look at any type of leadership that will be a representation of Christ we have to come to the realization that His (Jesus) is the only model we are to follow.

Eph. 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

When Jesus Ascended, He, Himself gave some, gifts that would equip and edify the saints until the church is unified and is like Jesus!

The 5-fold ministry gifts that Jesus released are for the church to function in Christ fullness. **Unity comes to the body through the diversity of these ministry gifts.**

When Jesus Ascended, He gave some the church gifts of leadership

A healthy church which desires to bring the full revelation of Jesus Christ will put forth effort to insure the all the facets of Jesus are being revealed. These servanthood positions for church

leadership are calling and anointing's they are not job career choices. These roles serve and undergird the church.

1Corinthians 12:28- *And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.*

1. **Apostle** Emphasize the revelation of God's plan

The body of Jesus Christ primary function is to be one that carries on the (Apostolic teaching and ministry). God's order begins with the Apostolic. This means a continuation of there calling and ministry as the emphasis of the church. Jesus intent was that His power and purity would never be diluted, but the same **Spirit who came upon the original Apostles would come in and on us so that we are equipped to continue what was begun. These Apostles were fathers and laid there life down for the church.**

Acts 2:42 (NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

***Ephesians 2:20-22** - having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

If we will choose to believe and copy heavens model (God's vision) we can live empowered and prepared together to build a dwelling place for God, to see His kingdom come.

- **The Apostolic becomes a covering and anointing that allows heaven to permeate every person, ministry, every gift set. Apostolic leaders want everyone fully equipped and responding to God's personal and corporate call to usher in the Kingdom of God.**
- **This is not a structure to restrain but one that releases! There is an emphasis that all the giftings are needed to be a complete revelation of Christ body. This is an equipping leadership model! Jesus wants us equipped not controlled, there is a big difference.**

2. **Prophet** emphasizes the revelation of God's voice

Just as the Apostolic brings the revelation of God's plan and keeps us believing, Prophets bring the revelation of God's voice and keep Us expecting. The prophet points the finger and says can you see it? Can you hear it, right now! *Prophets maintain the emphasis that we live by every word that proceeds from His mouth (Matthew 4:4).*

Prophecy under the New Covenant is given for strengthening, encouragement and comfort (1Cor. 14:3). Prophecy edifies others and is simply "any revelation received from God and given to another person, or to-the body as a whole"

Prophecy comes through:

- **revelation** (Holy Spirit giving impression, dream, thought, feeling, picture, vision etc.)
- **interpretation** this is understanding God gives about the revelation/what do you believe He is saying.
- **Application** or what do you do with this?

There is a difference between the role of prophet for church leadership, and the gift of prophecy that every believer can walk in. *The prophetic in Gods government works hand in hand with the apostolic to hear the momentum and direction of the church and could also get corrective words to realign the body of Christ.* Once again this is part of the foundation of His church. We need ears to hear! **Those with a prophetic mantle will serve by coming under others helping them to hear from God and remind them, of their destiny.**

1Corinthians 14:31-33³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; ³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; ³³ for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

3. **Evangelist** emphasizes God's mission to save souls

Evangelists highest concern is for the salvation of unbelievers. We need their voice and example compelling the church to fulfill the great commission to empty hell and fill heaven. "They will keep asking the eternal questions are you born again, where will you spend all of eternity.

God will use men and women who he has placed evangelism on to release into His people not just a revelation of a truth but breakthrough to accomplish the task. **The' evangelist among us will not let us lose sight of our mission to proclaim the gospel.** **The evangelist along with the Apostle keep the focus on the original commission to be fruitful and multiply.** **That our church is not limited to a building, we are called to a territory.** We have to have a kingdom mindset that moves us outward.

4. **Pastor**- emphasizes the love of God directed to the church

The word Pastor means Shepherd. Through we know Jesus for many things we should be greatly comforted by the fact that He is our shepherd. The primary function of the five fold pastor is to follow His lead and shepherd the flock well!

Ezekiel 34:15-16 I will feed My flock and I will lead them to rest,” declares the Lord God. ¹⁶ “I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment.

1. Pastors/Shepherds give direction, protection and correction
2. They serve as overseers, guarding the flock from both outside influence and wolves within
3. They feed the flock, they lead, they seek the lost, bring back the scattered , bind up the broken, strengthen the sick
4. They recognize they are not the chief shepherd. The sheep are entrusted to their care but they do not own the sheep. They point everyone to Jesus!

The Pastor trains and equips the saints to be dependent on the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

5. **Teacher** the teacher brings revelation of His Word, they ground *Matthew 7:28-29 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

True Spirit filled teachers release authority. This means not just theories but the power to back up what is being spoken of. Jesus was the teacher of all teachers, everything He talked about, He also did.

Teachers are essential for the church. Jesus Himself was known as Rabbi or teacher. Spirit filled teachers release deep revelation of the word of God and encourage all to be deeply connected to Jesus through His word.

*Fivefold **teachers ground** people in God’s word. They have the God given ability to connect people with God through powerful teaching.* Teachers take something that is very difficult to understand and make it easily understood and applied.

These leadership mantles are given to serve the church, equipping and releasing other into ministry.

The goal of the five leadership giftings given to the church by Christ is the following.

Eph 4:13-16 ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love,

may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. Unity of the faith
2. **Knowledge of Christ**-beyond intellectual to actually experienced
3. **Our perfection, which is fully dependent upon Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts that Jesus has left the church to keep us anchored, so that we will not be swayed by false teachers and deceptive narrative.**
4. **The goal is maturity and perfection but we need to remember that this is not an individualistic call as much as it is a complete picture of the unified church.**
5. The church is people growing in the love of God and everyone connected and doing their part. *We must not buy into religious program that focuses on human perfection at the expense of divine affection (Hayford).*
6. The church, Christ body is fully dependent upon Christ who is the head. He himself cause the growth but He does it through the individual parts. The gifts of Christ bring forth ministry and ministry grows and matures us to perfection. We are dependent on what others supply for our maturity,

Home group questions:

1. Discuss how Christ's leadership model is different and superior to all another earthly models.
2. Discuss the balance found in bringing the five leadership functions together.
3. Which of the five fold do you relate to the most and which do you want to grow in? Can you think of people who speak into your life that carry these giftings?
4. Though only some have one of the five leadership giftings that are purposed to equip and serve the church, everyone has giftings needed to cause growth for the body. How are you utilizing your gift to minister to the church?