

EPHESIANS

Gifts for Edification and Sanctification

Lesson #7, Ephesians 4:11-13

GIFTS FOR EDIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION
Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB95)

[The "and" here connects vs. 11 with vss. 7-10 namely that Jesus' incarnation led to our salvation and receiving spiritual gifts to serve the church.]

11 **And** He gave some as apostles
and [He gave] some as prophets
and [He gave] some as evangelists
and [He gave] some as pastors
and [He gave some as] teachers

[The believer's salvation in Christ also includes spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit manifested in different callings or offices for the edification of the church.]

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service
to the building up of the body of Christ
13 until we all attain

[Jesus' gracious gifts to every believer are for equipping believers to do ministry, build up the church, and maintaining unity around the truth.]

and to the unity of the faith
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

[Sanctification goals for the believer and the church as a whole.]

I. MEN GIFTED BY CHRIST TO SERVE

- A. Jesus Gave Gifted Apostles
- B. Jesus Gave Gifted Prophets
- C. Jesus Gave Gifted Evangelists
- D. Jesus Gave Gifted Pastors
- E. Jesus Gave Gifted Teachers

II. WHY JESUS GIVES GIFTS TO MEN

- A. To Equip the Saints
- B. To Build Up the Church
- C. To Maintain Doctrinal Unity

III. SANCTIFICATION GOALS

- A. The Unity of the Faith
- B. The Knowledge of Jesus
- C. Spiritual Maturity in Christ
- D. To Be Like Jesus

I. In Eph. 4:1-6 we are told that being united around the truth is critical for the health of every local church. We are also told that Christ came to save sinners (vss. 7-9), giving some teaching and preaching gifts so that the church could maintain unity (vs. 11). How should understanding the need to know the truth and sound doctrine affect our lives as believers inside and outside the local church?

- II. Some churches promote diversity and tolerance of any doctrinal view. What is wrong with such an approach? What might be some practical implications of not having *biblical/doctrinal* unity in the church?
- III. We learned last week that all the gifts and offices mentioned in vs. 11 involve people who are gifted to teach and preach the Word of God. What does this tell us about Jesus' desire for the local church and our responsibility, corporately and individually, towards those Jesus has called to teach and preach the Word of God?
- IV. In vss. 12-13 the specific reasons for Jesus giving spiritual gifts to those He saves is given i.e., 1) to equip them to serve, 2) to spiritually build them up, and 3) and to help them have doctrinal unity.
 - A. What might be wrong if we attend church but are not being equipped, we are not serving, we are not being built up spiritually, or we have a weak grasp of sound doctrine?
 - B. How can some in the church experience all three goals, while others don't, yet both are sitting under the same teaching and preaching?
- V. Teaching and sound doctrine produce the four goals of sanctification mentioned in vs. 13, i.e., 1) Being united in the faith, 2) Knowing Jesus, 3) Being spiritually mature, and 4) Experiencing the fulness of Christ. What are some of the challenges that keep believers in the church from experiencing these four goals?

Focused Prayer Topics

- Take some time to thank Jesus for key Bible teachers and preachers He has placed in your life to help you grow in Christ.
- Pray for those at Anchor Bible Church who are called to preach and teach the Word of God, that they would be faithful and unashamed workmen before God.
- Pray that God would give you patience in dealing with others who may be new believers or who haven't had exposure to good teaching and preaching to the extent that you have had in your life.
- Pray that God would help us apply the truth we receive and not deceive ourselves into thinking that merely learning the truth is enough.