

GIFT EXCHANGE: Exchange Apathy for Appreciation

EPHESIANS 4:7-14

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #GiftExchange

*Those Who Appreciate the Giver
Embrace their Spiritual Gifts.*

1. Appreciate the Delivery of Gifts (7-10).

- a. Jesus gave Individually (7).
- b. Jesus gave Instantly (7).
- c. Jesus gave Graciously (7).
- d. Jesus gave Measurably (7).
- e. Jesus gave Passionately (8-10).

2. Appreciate the Diversity of Gifts (11).

Sign Gifts:	Serving Gifts:	Speaking Gifts:
<u>Apostle</u>	Giving	<u>Evangelist</u>
<u>Prophet</u>	Service/Helps	<u>Pastor</u>
Healing	Leadership	<u>Teacher</u>
Miracles	Administration	
Tongues/Languages	Mercy	
Interpretation	Faith	
Word of Knowledge	Discernment	
Word of Wisdom	Encouragement	

3. Appreciate the Delight of Gifts (12-14).

Ephesians 4:7-14

⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." ⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until 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, ¹⁴so 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. (ESV)

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How can a believer discover what spiritual gifts the Lord have uniquely given? Do we have only one, or more than one? How does the Lord's labor motivate us to understand and use our gifts? What questions should we ask?
2. What are the dangers in a distinction between pastor and ministering member? How can that be harmful to the church? Are there any valid aspects of this distinction? How would our church be different if every member viewed himself or herself as a servant with a ministry to fulfill?
3. What steps will you take to begin using your gifts in the church this week? What should you do if there is no opportunity to use your gifts?



Quote for the Week

by Sinclair Ferguson

"When we exercise the gifts which Christ has given us we are really saying to our fellow Christians and others: See how much the Lord Jesus Christ loves you and cares for you; He has sent me to serve you in this way; He is using my hands and feet, my lips and ears, to show His love. It is a tragic mistake if we think that the message is: See what a superb Christian I am; see the wonderful gifts I have... Gifts are for service, not self-advancement."

Sinclair Ferguson, Grow in Grace, Banner of Truth, Carlisle, PA. 1989, p. 69.