

INDIVIDUAL WORK IN A UNIFIED CHURCH
EPH. 4:7-12

Introduction:

- A. Paul has given much emphasis to the unity that is to be in the church.
 - 1. v3.
 - 2. I Cor. 12:27.

- B. But what of the individual?
 - 1. Surely we are not robots?
 - 2. Members of a body serve varied needs.
 - 3. "for the body is not one member, but many."

I. JESUS CHRIST DISTRIBUTES GIFTS. V7

- A. "but everyone of us is given grace..."
 - 1. everyone = every individual in the church.
 - 2. Unity is not uniformity.

- B. "according to the measure of the gift of Christ."
 - 1. measure = metron = that by which anything is measured.
 - 2. gift = dorea = free gift, a present.
 - 3. "Each one of us has been given his gift, his own due portion of Christ's bounty."

II. CHRIST IS THE CONQUERING KING. V8

- A. "wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."
 - 1. ascended = anabaino = to go up, to climb, mount.
 - 2. high = en upsous = in height, on high.
 - 3. led captivity captive = he chmaloteusen = to led captive, The allusion is to a triumphal procession in which marched the persons taken in war.

- B. "and gave gifts unto men."
 - 1. gave = edoken = he gave.
 - 2. gift = doma = a gift, gifts.
 - 3. men = anthropois = to men.

II. THE DOMAIN CHRIST CONQUERED. V9-10

- A. The battlefield.
 - 1. "(now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth."
 - 2. The sign of Jonah. Matt. 12:38-40.
- B. The victory.
 - 1. "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fulfill all things."
 - 2. Rev. 1:17-18.

III. SOME GIFTS THAT CHRIST GAVE. V11

- A. "and he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers."
 - 1. apostles = apostolos = one sent, messenger.
 - 2. prophets = prophetes = one who speaks forth, openly before another, a proclaimer of a divine message, one to whom and through whom God speaks.
 - 3. evangelists = euaggelistes = a messenger of glad tidings, a proclaimer of the gospel story, He was particularly one who proclaimed the gospel he had received from an Apostle.
 - 4. pastor-teacher = poimen kai didaskalous = a shepherd, one who tends, herds, flocks, not merely one who feeds, but one who tends, guides, nourishes, cherishes, and rules.
kai didaskalos = a teacher, instructor, master.
- B. What about these offices in today's churches?

1. There are no more apostles to be selected, the qualifications cannot be met.
2. The gift of prophecy ceased, hence the office ceased.
3. The office of evangelist ceased but not the work of an evangelist. II Tim. 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."
4. There are only two offices in a church, Pastor and Deacon, the only ones with qualifications given in the Bible and their work defined. Ministers of: Music, Youth, Finance, Counseling, Visitation, Administration.

V. THE INDIVIDUALS WORK IN THE CHURCH.

A. The officers.

1. What are pastors to do?
 - a. Tend the flock.
 - b. Guide the flock.
 - c. Nourish the flock.
 - d. Rule the flock.
 - e. Teach the flock.
2. Other titles and examples.
 - a. Elder - dignity, Jewish.
 - b. Bishop - work, Greek.

B. What are those who are not teaching-pastors to do?

1. Deacons = free the hands of the pastor for his spiritual work.
 - a. To serve the church so that:
2. Members.
 - a. Attend.
 - b. Live righteously.
 - c. Witness.
 - d. Encourage.
 - e. Give money.
 - f. Pray.