



A COMMON QUESTION

Many times, when in conversations with unchurched people, they ask, "What does a pastor do with his time?" Or "What is a pastor's job?" Question: How would you answer that?

LET'S LOOK TO THE SCRIPTURES

We are in a series aimed at helping us focus on our mission 'to make disciples of Jesus who in turn make disciples.' What do the Scriptures teach is the role and goal of a leader / pastor?

Let's dig in on one of the clearest passages on this subject. Read Ephesians 4:7-16 and consider the following questions.

Note: The word "grace" means "favor or merit that is unearned." Who receives it? According to the rest of the passage, in what way is this grace endowed upon the church? How is Paul using this as a starting point in what follows?

Who are the main groupings in this passage and how are they described?

Verses 8-10 makes the point that God gives gifts to His people (Cf Psalms 68:18) because Jesus won them as a victory over Satan. Apart from Jesus, we are enslaved under the devil. But Jesus came to earth, descended in death, and gained victory over sin. Then, He ascended, i.e., rose from the dead, and gained victory over death. In His victory, He redeemed all who believe, and they become gifts to His people, the church.

What is the main role of the 'gifts' named in verse 11? (11-12)

What should be the result of this? (12-14)

What is the evidence of maturity in a church family? (14-16)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

The following questions are from Pastor Jerrod Mantonya:

- 1) How did you get involved in serving, currently or in the past?

- 2) What is wrong with the sentiment that 'ministry is only for the professionals'?

- 3) How is the role of pastors and other leaders in Ephesians 4:11-12 different from many people's expectations?

- 4) This passage (and many others) assumes that all people are gifted to serve. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, how did you discover them? How have you sought to build-up the body of Christ?

- 5) According to 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, what role does "love" have in building up the body of Christ?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

That every believer is gifted (enabled, equipped) to serve and build-up the family of God is taught in many places in Scripture. Do you believe that you have given your life to Jesus and He is using you to serve His family? If you would like to discover how you can serve, start serving somewhere. You can ask a Pastor or Ministry Director and they will help you get started.

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for the hurting and broken people in your worlds.
- Please pray for family who are without Jesus.
- Please pray for the wars in the world, our nation, the upcoming elections and how we respond in kindness for all.