



Our focus this week is on the role of Pastors and Leaders. This is a SHIFT for the church in America where we have become a 'come and watch' organization. Less so at Trinity, but nonetheless, we aspire to become better at equipping, valuing every member, and teaming up to make disciples who make disciples.

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?

I (Steve) have actually had a number of people ask me what I do the other days of the week. Do I only work one day a week?

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.

In fact, this passage focuses on the role of the leaders AND the entire church family. Please be sure to note this as you walk through the passage.

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?

Grace (Greek Charis) is given to all people. The word is related to the Greek word for gift (*charisma*). Christ made sure that grace is "apportioned" or "measured" out to "each one of us." (Greek *metron*) As we see in verse eleven, Christ "gave" people as gifts to "God's people." These gifts are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. They in turn give themselves to God's people. Their role (v. 12) is to "equip" God's people (*saints*) for "works of service" in which they are giving / serving others.

Therefore, the grace of Christ is the starting point of what follows.

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

The groupings begin in v. 7:

- (1) Christ, implied conqueror, the one who descended and then ascended, the one who fills the universe, the one who gave / gives gifts, the one who sets in motion the process of the church/God's people/the saints doing works of service that build up the body of Christ, brings unity and maturity and builds itself up in love, The Son of God, the Head.
- (2) People as gifts to the church, apostles . . . pastors / teachers
- (3) Each of us (7), recipients of Christ's gifts (11), God's people / holy ones / saints, workers, the whole body, no longer infants, parts of the body of Christ.

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)

To carry out the "works of service" that build up the body of Christ.

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

Unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, become mature, fullness of Christ

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

Not deceived by false teaching, speak the truth in love, grows and builds in love.

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?'
This is a false impression, so true of the church in America. Throughout Scripture (1 Cor 12-14; Rom 12; Eph 4, and 1 Peter 4), every believer is called, gifted, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve and build up the body of Christ to His glory.

- 3) How is the role of pastors and other leaders in Ephesians 4:11-12 different from many people's expectations?
They are to give themselves to equipping the body of Christ (saints) to do the work of ministry.

- 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?
Passages listed above (1 Cor 12-14; Rom 12; Eph 4, and 1 Peter 4).

- 5) According to 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, what role does "love" have in building up the body of Christ?
Ability without love accomplishes nothing. Our passage makes it clear that the work of the ministry (service) should result in the body of Christ that "builds itself up in love as each part does its work.") Ephesians 4:16

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.