

**Disciple: The Community of Discipling**  
Ephesians 4.7-16

**The Gift and Goal of Ministers in the Church (vv. 7-14)**

- There is a rich diversity in the body... (v. 7)

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

*The gifts are not merely material objects or personality traits but rather are Christ's sharing of Himself. The gifts given to you and me—we who are the body of Christ—are the extension of Christ very heart and being to His people. (Bryan Chapell)*

- That has been accomplished by Christ's triumph... (vv. 8-10)

*Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him! (Psalm 68:4)*

*O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, <sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. (Psalm 68:7-8)*

*You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there. (Psalm 68:18)*

- Which results in an active, ministry-minded, discipling congregation... (vv. 11-12)

- God blesses his church is through the preaching of the Word.

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13)*

- God builds His church is through the echoing of the Word.

*And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10)*

- Which leads to a congregation that bears a resemblance to Jesus. (vv. 13-14)

**The Ground and Goodness of Ministry in the Church (vv. 15-16)**

- Don't neglect your heart in the ministry of the church.

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)*

*The more we learn to allow others to speak the Word to us, to accept humbly and gratefully even severe reproaches and admonitions, the more free and objective will we be in speaking ourselves. The person whose touchiness and vanity make him spurn a brother's earnest censure cannot speak the truth in humility to others; he is afraid of being rebuffed and of feeling that he has been aggrieved. The touchy person will always become a flatterer and very soon he will come to despise and slander his brother. But the humble person will stick both to truth and to love. He will stick to the Word of God and let it lead him to his brother. Because he seeks nothing for himself and has no fears for himself, he can help his brother through the Word. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)*

- Don't neglect your part in the ministry of the church.

*The community which allows unemployed members to exist within it will perish because of them.... Every Christian community must realize that not only do the weak need the strong, but also that the strong cannot exist without the weak. The elimination of the weak is the death of fellowship. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*