

Gracious Gifts Given to Each

Ephesians 4:7 (LEB)

Now **to each one of us** was given this grace, according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- 4:1-6 are about the unity of the body while 7-16 are about diversity in the body
- Christ decides who receives what gift
- Christ's gift is for gracious ministry and service in the body of Christ
- Christ is sovereign over this distribution

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

1

Christ the Victorious Warrior

Ephesians 4:8 (LEB)

Therefore it says, "Ascending on high he led captivity captive; **he gave gifts to men.**"

- Psalm 68:18 is cited about the divine warrior who defeats His enemies
- The victor sits on high and the defeated enemies are scattered (Psalm 68:1)
- Psalm 68:31-32 predicts Gentiles serving and praising God

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

2

The Descent and Ascent of Christ

Ephesians 4:9 (LEB)

Now "he ascended," what is it, except that he also descended to the lower regions of the earth?

- Paul emphasizes the incarnation, death and triumphant ascension of Christ
- The One who descended is the same One who ascended to exalted glory
- What Paul means by "the lower regions of the earth" has been much disputed

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

3

Christ Is Exalted Above All

Ephesians 4:10 (LEB)

The one who descended himself is also the one who ascended above all the heavens, **in order that he might fill all things.**

- Christ reigns from the highest heavens
- Therefore all things are under Him including all hostile powers
- Christ's supremacy over "the all" is thematic in Ephesians (1:10, 11, 22, 23)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

4

Implications and Applications

- Each member of the body of Christ is graciously gifted to serve
- Christ is exalted above all and reigns over all things

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

5

Serve One Another

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

- Like Ephesians 4:7, *ekastos* (each) is used in the context of gracious gifts
- This is about mutual ministry in the local church
- "Stewards" are household managers so we serve as those appointed by God

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

6

Our Perfect, Exalted High Priest

Hebrews 7:26, 27 (ESV)

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, **separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens**. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since **he did this once for all when he offered up himself**.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

7

The Glorified Son Upholds All Things as He Reigns on High

Hebrews 1:3 (NASB)

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, **He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**,

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

8