

Gifts That Profit All

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung – 6/15/2013

It is good for us to go back from time to time and reread the Scriptures closely to make sure that we have **stayed the course** of truth and righteousness.

Let's stick our noses in the Bible and read it closely – to see what God says to us. Through His Holy Spirit, God leads us into all righteousness if we are faithful to his ways. But we must be **obedient** to God – there is no getting around it.

Psalm 111:

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: **a good understanding** have all they that **keep His commandments**: His praise endures forever.

Within the Church of God there have been **so many** twists and turns over the last twenty years or more that we sometimes begin to think the Bible says one thing – when it really says another. What does the Bible really say?

Too many terms and definitions have taken on **different** meanings over time because we were not careful to maintain the fundamentals. It is a subtle form of deception – but deception none the less. We see the Church of God slipping into complacency and Laodiceanism.

Let's take for instance the term 'church' and how it has changed. Long ago I heard pastors and ministers say, "I'll check with Pasadena; I'll check with the Church." Those ministers believed that church administration was the 'church.' Church headquarters was the 'church' to those men.

We no longer check with Pasadena, but instead we check with Charlotte, Texas, or Cincinnati. We check with the "Church," Meaning, of course that we are checking with Church headquarters. That is **not** how Jesus Christ used the word 'church.'

Matthew 16:

18 Jesus said: "I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Jesus did not say, "I will build my churches (plural)." He said 'church' singular. The Church is ONE. The word "church" is the Greek is '*ekklesia*,' meaning the one group of **called out ones**. Brethren, we are the CHURCH. Jesus had one thing in mind – and that was the called out **brethren** who constitute the Church of God.

As Jesus looks down from His heavenly throne, He sees only His one Church.

Jesus does not see a patchwork of different churches. But we are scattered aren't we?

Ephesians 5:

23 "Jesus Christ is the head of the Church." [not churches]

We find the use of the word churches in the Scriptures in references to local congregations – to distinguish which local is being spoken of – but collectively they all constitute only **one church** – of which body of believers – Jesus Christ is the head. The church at Corinth; the church at Ephesus... etc.

Brethren, if you wish to be in sync with God's Word – from now on when you use the word church – envision the assembly of converted brethren as one people – because that is the way that Jesus views His church brethren. We are brethren with Jesus – and therefore we are brothers and sisters to one another.

Hebrews 2:

11 For both He that sanctifies and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He [Jesus] is not ashamed to call them brothers, [and sisters.]

1 Corinthians 12:

13 "By one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into **one Spirit**."

Sharing that same Spirit with God, we begin to put on God's compassion, mercy, love, forgiveness, concern, mind, heart, with all the other converted brethren. We are many brethren – many members – but one Body of Christ.

Ephesians 1:

22 "[God] hath put all things under [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church."

Today we are increasingly finding the church brethren being shattered and scattered before Christ comes.

Daniel 12:

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives forever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to **scatter the power of the holy people**, all these things shall be finished.

In 1 Corinthians 1:13 we read that Jesus is not divided.

Therefore, the Body of Christ cannot be divided – but it is!

As we look at the shattered and scattered condition of the church brethren today – forbidden to cross the organizational lines **to serve** one another – and prohibited from fellowship with one another – we find that the Body of Christ is indeed divided.

The bigger corporate organizations will not allow their gifted speakers to give a sermon in other smaller congregations of God's converted people unless the smaller groups agree to give allegiance and loyalty to the headquarters of the larger group. If a minister violates that ungodly ordinance* he is severely censured or even severed from the larger church corporation. Jesus said that His true ministers were to preach to all the creation:

* **Mark 16:**

15 And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel **to every** creature.

Jesus says that His word is to be preached to all creation! Why would an organization prevent its ministers from speaking to those converted brethren who are in need?

The manmade division is taking a terrible toll. Church families are broken and not allowed to observe God's solemn Feast Days together.

This divided condition of His church is **a stench** in the nostrils of Almighty God – and He is **not** pouring out His blessings now as He has done before.

According to God, there can be no barriers of division between like-minded, converted brethren when it comes to His Spirit and **the gifts** Jesus Christ has bestowed on **all** the Church brethren.

1 Corinthians 12 is the Chapter about spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:

1 Now **concerning spiritual gifts**, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

God wants us to know how it all works. First He tells us that there are different kinds of gifts.

Not everyone can sing. Not everyone knows their doctrine. Not everyone has the gift of encouragement, discernment, edification, musical talent, etc.

1 Corinthians 12:

4 Now there are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.

"The same Spirit," means these are Godly gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

A Dad administers God's law for his wife and family, for example. These verses demonstrate that these Godly Gifts are for the express purpose of being of service --- to someone --- we'll see 'who' in a moment.

1 Corinthians 12:

6 And there are diversities of operations [using Godly gifts], but it is the same God which works **all in all**.

Specific Purpose Statement here:

God's gifts are for all. Now, here is the point of today's sermon: Just who are to be the recipients of the benefits of the gifts that have been bestowed on individual brethren.

In other words, if God has given you a beautiful singing voice – which part of God's church should have the pleasure of enjoying the beautiful music?

1 Corinthians 12: gives us the answer from God's point of view:

***1 Corinthians 12:**

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit **withal**.

"Withal" is a word that we very seldom use. It means, for **everyone**.

"Withal" means that each and **every one** of all the brethren are to profit from all the spiritual gifts.

The question that we need to ask ourselves is this:

Are these gifts - given by God - are they for a select few members in only one of the corporate organizations - or, are the gifts of the Spirit meant to be utilized for the **entirety** of the **church** brethren anywhere on the face of the earth?

The answer is this: Jesus Christ's spiritual gifts are given to God's people by the Holy Spirit for the **common good** of all the Church brethren.

Herbert W. Armstrong was given the gift of a imposing and authoritative voice. What if he had been unwilling to share his **gift** with us?

Jesus says that the gifts that He gives are for the **profit of everyone**.

Nowhere in these Scriptural verses do we find any limitation whatsoever that some brethren are to be excluded from benefiting from these Godly gifts. It is an improper use of God's gift to not edify the entire Body of Christ. You do not cut off one race, one location or all of South America, for example.

These Gifts that God so freely bestows are not for the recipient - and his glory alone. These Gifts of God are for God's purpose of edifying the entire congregation of Jesus Christ - wherever they are on the face of the earth.

There is no indication at all in the Scriptures that some brethren are more worthy than other brethren to be beneficiaries of Christ's gifts.

How then are church leaders able to say that God has made them apostles; prophets; evangelists; pastors or teachers **for only a small portion** of the Church?

Why does Jesus give these particular gifts mentioned here? What is a *minister* [servant] of Jesus Christ supposed to be? It is a shame that this question even needs to be asked, but in these last days the term "Minister" has taken on the exact opposite connotation of what it was originally meant to present.

In the Church of God organizations the term "Minister" has come to mean everything from the man with the three piece suit and the big car - who tells you what to do, who flashes into town every week or so, and gives a sermon. He is the one who is in a coveted position of power and authority.

Ephesians 4 gives us the real answer to this question of why God gives these special gifts to individuals. **What are gifts for?** These gifts are given by Jesus for the purpose of perfecting God's people; for serving and for building up the Body of Christ. We are to go on to perfection...

Hebrews 6:

- 1** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection**; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

Ephesians 4:

- 12** "For the perfecting of the saints, for the **work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the Body of Christ."

Nowhere in these Scriptural verses do we find any limitation whatsoever that some brethren are to be excluded from benefiting from **these gifts**.

Unfortunately, the ministers often function to inhibit the use of the God-given talents of the brethren rather than helping each member to develop them! Rather than serving as motivating influences, encouraging members to develop their usefulness to God, the ministers function more as blockers and inhibitors in their congregation's spiritual development.

Since the gifts of God are clearly for the profit of all the Church brethren according to Jesus Christ, how in the world do so many church leaders today **withhold the gifts** they have received from Jesus from all the other brethren who Jesus Christ says are entitled to them?

The Gifts of God are for all the church brethren! I submit to you brethren, that this Biblical truth of God's gifts being meant of **all**, is not believed or practiced by a single one of the larger church organizations today.

They reserve the gifts of God to their loyal followers alone – and they severely sanction any who would go outside their corporate organization to share God's gifts - which God says **they must share**.

There is something really wrong here! Almost every church organization freely admits that there are converted brethren in all the other groups – and yet they somehow **withhold the spiritual gifts** God has given them that are clearly meant to be for the profit of all brethren.

The Scriptures clearly say that those gifts given by God are for the profit of all the brethren.

We are going to read Psalm 68 because these Old Testament verses were Paul's inspiration for his inspired writings about spiritual gifts.

Psalm 68:

- 17** The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

We just saw those verses about the chariots of God in Sinai at Pentecost.

Psalm 68:

- 18** Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast **led captivity captive**: [notice, because we are speaking about spiritual gifts.] thou hast received **gifts** for men; yea, for the rebellious also [that is you and me brethren], that the Lord God might dwell among them.

- 19** Blessed be the Lord, who daily **loads** [all of] **us with benefits**, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

Let me ask you a question brethren: Who is it that is way up high in the ministry who has received God's gifts today? You can make a list of names if you wish – you may have been taught that it is the Apostles and pastor generals and leading men that these verses apply to.

Not So.

Ephesians 4:

* **7** But unto every one of us is **given** grace according to the measure of the **gift** of Christ.

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive [notice how Paul is quoting Psalm 68:18], and **gave gifts** unto men.

What are the gifts that Jesus Christ gave?

Ephesians 4:

11 And he **gave** some, apostles [**messengers**]; and some, prophets [**inspired speakers**]; and some, evangelists [**eulogizing preachers** of the Gospel]; and some, pastors [**shepherds** watching over and looking out for the sheep] and teachers [**instructors**];

More and more as the Church of God **aged**, this concept of gifts became the basis **for hierarchal rule of ministers** over the brethren – which concept I might add is still deeply entrenched within most of the corporate churches today.

One of the last ministerial conferences that I attended – well after the apostasy – an evangelist stood up and said, "God gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers – what else can it mean but that God was setting up a **hierarchal rule of the ministers** over the brethren?"

Brethren, let me explain right up front, when we read these points, these are **not ranks** of Godly authority, but they are gifts given to individuals to be able to accomplish the job that God wants them to do.

We can see clearly in 1 Corinthians 12 that Ephesians 4:11 is not a ranking of Church authority positions here:

1 Corinthians 12:

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, **thirdly** teachers [Teachers were the **5th** gift that we just saw in Ephesians 4:11], after that miracles, **then gifts** of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Let's make sure that the fact that Paul is clearly speaking **of gifts** is not lost on us brethren!

1 Corinthians 12:

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

The Corinthians were regular brethren like us – not Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors etc – but **regular Church folks**.

Should **regular Church folks** expect to receive Godly gifts?

Notice what Paul tells the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 12:

31 But **covet earnestly** the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way. [Then Paul goes on in the next chapter to tell what the very best gift is – **Godly Love utilized** in service to the brethren. **Provoke** one another **unto love and to good works.**]

*Paul made it clear that the support and foundation of the Truth of God does not reside in a corporate headquarters, or in an administrative **hierarchal** leadership but within the brethren of the Church of God.

*The support and foundation of the Truth of God resides within the brethren of the Church of God.

Paul is writing to Timothy:

1 Timothy 3:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou may know how thou ought to behave thyself in the **house of God** [what is the house of God?], which is the church of the living God [all the church brethren], the pillar and ground of the truth.

The **pillar and ground of the truth** does not reside in Rome, Jerusalem, Pasadena, Cincinnati, Charlotte or Texas – but in YOU brethren! The pillar and ground of the truth resides in the church brethren. Not in one leading man – or a few.

For what purpose does Jesus **give** these particular **gifts** mentioned here? This next verse gives us the answer to this question. These **gifts** are **given** by Jesus for the purpose of perfecting God's people; for serving and for building up the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ:

“Perfecting of the saints,” means completely furnishing with Godly knowledge those brethren who have been called and set apart.

“Work of the ministry,” should be translated “Work of Service” – and it is not left up to your local minister – but to **YOU** brethren. “Work of Service” means preparing God’s people to be able to attend to need of the saints – to service the needs of their fellow brethren.

Sadly, we in the Church of God have not been taught sufficiently that **we are to be the ones** who are to go to the aid of our brethren in need – especially when they are in spiritual trouble – to help them into the Kingdom of God by helping them to get back on track spiritually – by laying down our lives – putting it all on the line to help save them. That is our responsibility – not that of the ministry sent from headquarters.

“Edifying of the Body of Christ,” means to build the Church which is His Body.

Ministerial administrations are **Useless**, unless they are producing within the brethren an **independent** ability to serve one another in a Godly fashion.

Ministerial administrations are **Useless** ... unless they are producing within the brethren the ability to independently fight the good fight.

Ministerial administrations are **Useless** ... unless they are producing within the brethren the ability to Stand Alone and approach God the Father – only through Jesus Christ.

I received an email from one of the scattered brethren this morning – actually a long time member and his wife who are no longer able to attend with any of the bigger corporate groups. They wrote:

“One of the biggest mistakes Worldwide Church of God ever made, and most of the corporate groups (both large and small) are still making today, is not preparing the brethren for **works of service**.

[Didn’t we just read brethren in Ephesians 4:12 that spiritual gifts are given to the brethren for the **work of service** - attending to need of the saints – to be able to service the needs of their fellow brethren.]

Continuing in the email:

“They [the paid ministry] have not in the past and are not today encouraging brethren to use their spiritual gifts and abilities as God intended, as we prepare and are being trained to be leaders with various abilities under Jesus Christ in the coming new world.

[God’s people are not being trained and prepared for the World Tomorrow – to be able to say – “this is the way walk ye in it” (Isaiah 30:21)].

Continuing in the email:

“Brethren who have clung to and still cling to the old Worldwide Church of God mindset in the past generation have missed **so much** and so many opportunities to grow in grace and knowledge and service.”

OK brethren, we have a real **serious problem** here. Why, for what purpose do we get together – why do we go to services? This next Scripture is often taken out of context in our church culture of today.

Hebrews 10:

24 And let us consider one another to **provoke unto love and to good works:**

That is our responsibility before Jesus Christ – to stir one another unto love and to good works.

Hebrews 10:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another:** and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

*These verses are not speaking about pot lucks, choir practice, socializing, having fun, church picnics, basketball games, etc., but spiritually **helping others** into the Kingdom of God by **laying down his life** for his fellow brother and sister in Christ.

1 John 3:

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren.**

1 John 4:

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

John 15:

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man **lay down his life for his friends.**

Today in our **dumbed down** congregations these verses mean little more than show up to socialize with your friends – be happy, have fun and be successful, have pot lucks, sing, have games, picnics and look good.

Who today is a living sacrifice – laying down his life for his fellow brother and sister to be able to be in God's Kingdom? It is God's intention that we grow and excel in every one of His gifts even now:

1 Corinthians 1:7 So that ye come behind in **no gift**; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Brethren, here is what took place in Worldwide Church of God near the end:

We pursued the same approach that we find in worldly organizations, the military and the Catholic Church. Top down rule and authority – with the bottom people only expected to obey and not think.

We began setting up an authority structure where those who should have been servants (the ministry) were set up to lord over the people, the very opposite approach to what Jesus set before His Disciples.

Luke 22:

25 And he [Jesus] said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Benefactors means that those at the top of the hierarchy take care of us. That's the same thing that we were taught in the Worldwide Church of God. There were times that we hardly dared enter their presence without being summoned – like Esther waiting for Ahasuerus, the king to hold out the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. (Esther 5:2)

Luke 22:

26 But ye shall **not** be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger [the youngest brother gets all the dirty jobs]; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve [like a slave].

Jesus says – don't do it that way. The minister is supposed to be **servicing** the brethren – not the other way around.

Matthew 20:

- 25** Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.
- 26** But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your [servant];
- 27** And whosoever will be chief among you, **let him be your servant.**
- 28** Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to [serve], and to give His life a ransom for many.

The ministers of the Church are not to structure the Church in the likeness of the military ranking system or the civil governments. Unfortunately, we see Church leadership structures conforming to Jesus Christ's clear prohibition of being domineering overlords of the brethren.

Jesus was down on His hands and feet – washing the disciple's feet – teaching us to do likewise.

Luke 22:

- 27** For whether is greater, he that sits at meat, or he that serves? is not he that sits at meat? but I am among you as he that serves.

How is it that the ministry in God's church are only willing to serve from their lofty reign of superiority. Jesus taught the disciples that they were to not be that way!

But in doing that very thing, we – in Worldwide Church of God – and today as well – made two mistakes. First was the setting up of an authority structure of **ranks** – like Jesus said not to do.

Secondly, was the reversal of roles - putting the headquarters ministry on **top** when Jesus says they must be **servants**, and putting the membership (the Church brethren) on the very bottom – where they were not taught to serve either!

It is still a wrong practice in much of the Church of God today.

These corporate organizations wish to expand their numbers of members considerably – “grow the church” – as much as possible because they would love to be the biggest of all.

Members can be in their organizations - but only as long as they pledge their allegiance and loyalty to the corporate ministry and the controlling headquarters agency. [That is unscriptural.]

1 Peter 4:

- 10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Simon Magus did not want the power of God's Holy Spirit **for the good** of the Church brethren but for himself and his own aggrandizement.

We are warned - and we are shown that the gift of God's Holy Spirit can and will be used contrary to God's intentions. And brethren, do not be so foolish as to say it cannot happen to us. Billions have people - smarter than us - have been deceived in the past.

Acts 8:

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the **gift of God** may be purchased with money.

Simon Magus went to Pagan Rome and established the Catholics.

Brethren are not the personal property or slaves of the ministry nor of the corporations. Oh yes, the big church corporations can disfellowship you from their organizations for teaching the truth - but not from God.

They seek to instill an awe and fear in all the other brethren - and they have been very successful.

1 Peter 5:

- 1** The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
- 2** Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- 3** Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
- 4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.

The bigger church organizations are incorrectly teaching that it is through our relationship with Jesus Christ is channeled **thru them** - some temporal loyalty to men, headquarters and organizations.

We do not go to God, or build our relationship with God through organizations, groups, structures, corporations, ministers or personalities - we go directly through Jesus Christ to God the Father.

The bigger church organizations teach that Loyalty to THEM first - represents true loyalty to God!

Brethren, that **is unscriptural**.

What is the church? It is not an organization. It is not a corporation.

Jesus is building His Church - we began with that Scripture today - Matthew 16:18.

But the Church that Jesus is building belongs to God, therefore the Scriptures reveal that the called out brethren are to be called, "The Church of God."

*Let's understand these essential truths. Our relationship is with God, through Jesus Christ, our intermediary - not through a man, a Pastor, nor a king.

Let's be absolutely clear: We do not go to God, or build our **relationship with God** through organizations, groups, structures, corporations, ministers or personalities.

1 Timothy 2:

5 "There is one God, and **one mediator between God and men**, the man Christ Jesus."

We were reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

There is only **one mediator between God and men**, and that is Jesus the Messiah. What is the role of these shepherds – these ministers? What is their duty? We find the answer in Ephesians 4.

Paul did not lord it over the brethren. He did not consider himself to in a different **class or rank** – but he included himself with the brethren.

Ephesians 4:

13 Till **we** [Paul includes himself] all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

A pastor, who is a true minister, protects his flock, and he considers himself to be one of the brethren.

Ephesians 4:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

These **gifts** are for a very specific purpose. They are to bring us to the perfection of Christ. We will not get there while in the flesh, but we need to continually move that way.

A pastor who is a true minister **points the brethren to Jesus Christ**, and to live as Christ does.

Ephesians 4:

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow **up into Him** in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Jesus has given **gifts**, spiritual gifts to His Church so that it is nourished and sustained.

The first gift given to us at the time of our conversion is the gift of God's Spirit.

Acts 2:

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**.

Another great gift is the freely given **gift of the righteousness of Christ** which follows God graciousness forgiveness of sin repented of.

Romans 5:

- 17** For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

A third gift that I suppose many might list as first is the gift of eternal life.

Romans 6:

- 23** The wages of sin is death; but the **gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There are many different gifts – but they are not given to one church organization to be jealously kept and retain unto itself for its own selfish purposes – away from all the other scattered brethren of God's Church.

No! God gives His many spiritual gifts for the purpose of the entire Body of true Christian believers. Notice some of the many different **gifts**:

1 Corinthians 12:

- 4** Now there are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.
5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works **all in all**.
7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit **withal**. [For everyone's profit.]
8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.
9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts** of healing by the same Spirit;
10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
11 But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
12 For as the **body is one**, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ**.

1 Corinthians 14:

- 1** Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.
10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and **none of them is without significance**.
12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the [entire] church.

Romans 12:

- 5** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and **every one members one of another.**
- 6** Having then **gifts** differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
- 7** Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teaches, on teaching;
- 8** Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that **gives**, let him do it with simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 9** Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

God's gifts are for the purpose of **building up all** unto **Jesus Christ**:

Ephesians 4:

- 12** For the perfecting of [**all**] the saints, for the work of service to **one another**, for the edifying of the Body of Christ:
- 13** Till we **all** come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the **stature of the fullness of Christ.**

Let's remember, it is not just the job of the local ministry, it is the job of **every one of us** to help one another into the Kingdom of God. It is the job of **every one of us** to help others even if they have a sin, even if they have a fault or a weakness.

If we are to be true servants of Christ, it is our duty to help everyone into the Kingdom of God.

End: Gifts That Profit All