

## The One and the Many, Part 2

### I. Unity/Harmony in the Midst of Diversity

“A central element in such a lifestyle is the harmony of our relationships with one another in the church.”<sup>1</sup>

**We share in one body, but we each function in different ways, to build up the Church.**

### II. Ephesians 4:7-16

#### A. Jesus Has Triumphed (Ephesians 4:7-10)!

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.

#### B. Jesus Gave a Variety of Gifts (Ephesians 4:11)!

Ephesians 4:11	Romans 12:6–8	1 Corinthians 12:8–10	1 Corinthians 12:28	1 Peter 4:11
1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Evangelist 4. Shepherd 5. Teacher	1. Prophecy 2. Serving 3. Teaching 4. Exhortation 5. Generosity 6. Leadership 7. Mercy	1. Wisdom 2. Knowledge 3. Faith 4. Gifts of healings 5. Miracles 6. Prophecy 7. Distinguishing between spirits 8. Tongues 9. Interpretation of tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Teacher 4. Miracles 5. Healings 6. Helping 7. Administrating 8. Tongues	1. Whoever speaks 2. Whoever serves

### 1. Apostles

<sup>1</sup> Sinclair Ferguson, Let's Study Ephesians, p. 99

“Once we have insisted that there are today no apostles of Christ with an authority comparable to that of the apostles Paul, Peter, and John, it is certainly possible to argue that there are people with apostolic ministries of a different kind, including episcopal jurisdiction, pioneer missionary work, church planting, itinerant leadership, etc.”<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Prophets

“Nobody can presume to claim an inspiration comparable to that of the canonical prophets, or use their introductory formula, ‘Thus says the Lord.’ But, as with apostles so with prophets, having first established the uniqueness of the original teachers of the church, we then have to ask if there is a subsidiary gift of some kind. It seems right to answer ‘yes’...by the ministry of the Holy Spirit some receive an unusual degree of insight into the Word of God, not as a new revelation but a fresh understanding of the old. There is a sensitive understanding of the contemporary world. The prophetic gift is detected in the handling of the Word of God, for one cannot think of God’s prophets in isolation from God’s Word. It is understood as a gift of insight into either the biblical text or the contemporary situation, or both, namely a powerful combination of accurate exposition and pertinent application.”<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Evangelist

## 4. Pastor/Teacher, or Pastor and Teacher

### C. Jesus Gave the Gifts for Unity, Maturity and Growth in Love (Ephesians 4:12-16)!

1. Equip the saints for works of ministry (v. 12)
2. Build up the body of Christ (v. 12)
3. Unity (v. 13)
4. Maturity (v. 14)
5. Stability/Integrity (v. 14) “A new wind blows through each year, a hurricane every few years.”<sup>4</sup>
6. Love! (v. 15)

### III. Implications

“...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” – Ephesians 4:16

“Like a human body, the church is held together with *joints*. Only when every part is working *properly* does healthy growth take place. But where there is a wise and nourishing

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<sup>2</sup> John Stott

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Sinclair Ferguson

ministry of the Word it will happen. And it will do so almost like a youngster growing to maturity in his or her own body – which seems to ‘grow itself’: *the body builds itself up in love*.

Often churches do not seem to be growing. Stunted fellowship is almost always caused by a lack of truth or a lack of love—sadly sometimes by both. Where the central ministries of the Word are lacking, the knowledge of the *truth* will be diminished and the ability to develop maturity impoverished. Where there is not thorough-going submission to the Word *love* will be lacking and any growth will be misshapen and unlike Christ.

But where, under the ministry of the Word, truth and love go hand in hand, growth is assured and grace prevails.”<sup>5</sup>

Ephesians 4:11	Romans 12:6–8	1 Corinthians 12:8–10	1 Corinthians 12:28	1 Peter 4:11
6. Apostle 7. Prophet 8. Evangelist 9. Shepherd 10. Teacher	8. Prophecy 9. Serving 10. Teaching 11. Exhortation 12. Generosity 13. Leadership 14. Mercy	10. Wisdom 11. Knowledge 12. Faith 13. Gifts of healings 14. Miracles 15. Prophecy 16. Distinguishing between spirits 17. Tongues 18. Interpretation of tongues	9. Apostle 10. Prophet 11. Teacher 12. Miracles 13. Healings 14. Helping 15. Administrating 16. Tongues	3. Whoever speaks 4. Whoever serves

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” – Romans 12:3-6

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid