

(Ephesians 4 AMP) **11** And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct], **12** [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church]; **13** until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ [manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity].

Paul lists five Ministry (Office) gifts to the church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

- a. Apostles were those sent on behalf of Jesus with the authority to represent Him. They were also sent out by the church as messengers, missionaries and to establish churches (**Acts 13:1-3, Acts 14:14**).
- b. Prophets also had a foundational ministry in that they received spiritual knowledge directly from the Spirit and used it in establishing churches. They have the special ability from God to give guidance and declare His will (**Acts 13:1-4, Acts 21:7-11**).
- c. Evangelists traveled from place to place preaching the Gospel and seeking to lead unbelievers to a relationship with Jesus (**Acts 21:8, 2 Tim 4:5**).
- d. Then we have pastors or shepherds (local church overseers) and teachers.

(Acts 13:1-3 AMPC) **1** Now in the church (assembly) at Antioch there were prophets (inspired interpreters of the will and purposes of God) and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger [Black], Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate now for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. **3** Then after fasting and praying, they put their hands on them and sent them away.

(Acts 14:14 AMPC) But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothing and dashed out among the crowd, shouting,

(Acts 21:7-11 AMPC) **8** On the morrow we left there and came to Caesarea; and we went into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven [first deacons], and stayed with him. **9** And he had four maiden daughters who had the gift of prophecy. **10** While we were remaining there for some time, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. **11** And coming to [see] us, he took Paul's belt and with it bound his own feet and hands and said, Thus says the Holy Spirit: The Jews at Jerusalem shall bind like this the man who owns this belt, and they shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles (heathen).

(2 Timothy 4:5-7 AMPC) **5** As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fully perform all the duties of your ministry. **6** For I am already about to be sacrificed [my life is about to be poured out as a drink offering]; the time of my [spirit's] release [from the body] is at hand and I will soon go free. **7** I have fought the good (worthy, honorable, and noble) fight, I have finished the race, I have kept (firmly held) the faith.

The purposes of these gifts are twofold:

- a. to equip (perfect) the saints for the work of ministry, and to build up (edify) the Body of Christ. The word "perfect" means to equip, to prepare or to make ready. Therefore, the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers' function is to prepare God's people for the work of ministry or service.
- b. Here, the word "unity" modifies both faith and knowledge. We are to continue to grow (mature) until we attain a complete unity of the faith (unity of the Spirit).

5. Name and describe the function of the 9 Charismatic (Spiritual) gifts (**1 Cor 12:8-10**).
 - to another the word of wisdom ability to give wise advice
 - to another the word of knowledge a message of special knowledge
 - to another faith by the same Spirit great faith , wonder-working] faith
 - to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit extraordinary powers of healing
 - to another the working of miracles power to perform miracles
 - to another prophecy ability to prophesy , foretelling the future
 - to another discerning of spirits distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine
 - to another divers kinds of tongues various kinds of [unknown] tongues
 - to another the interpretation of tongues ability to interpret [such] tongues
6. Are there any other gifts not mentioned in **Rom 12:4-8, 1 Cor 12:28**
 - he that exhorteth encourage others, be encouraging
 - he that giveth he who contributes
 - he that ruleth, with diligence leadership ability administrators
 - he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness a gift for showing kindness to others / caring
 - he that helps help others
7. Are these gifts still active in the Body of Christ (did they stop)?
8. What is the ultimate goal(s) of these gifts?

(Ephesians 4 AMP) **14** So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine, by the cunning and trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit]. **15** But speaking the truth in love [in all things—both our speech and our lives expressing His truth], let us grow up in all things into Him [following His example] who is the Head—Christ. **16** From Him the whole body [the church, in all its various parts], joined and knitted firmly together by what every joint supplies, when each part is working properly, causes the body to grow and mature, building itself up in [unselfish] love.

Paul uses the picture of a boat in a rough sea being tossed to and fro by the waves and “carried about by every wind of doctrine.” Some people cannot make up their mind but often change from one opinion to another, according to the last teaching they heard, or books they read, or information they received. There is no stability in their thoughts. Such people are easy prey to those who wish to deceive them by deception, trickery, and manipulation because of their spiritual ignorance. Paul moves from the mark of immaturity, which is doctrinal instability, to the qualities of mature Christianity, which will promote unity and peace within the body. We can communicate the truth so that unity can be maintained, Paul says, by speaking the truth in love.

Paul then uses the human anatomy to describe the church’s relationship with Christ. Paul compares the natural body and Christ’s mystical body, the church. As the body has many parts which are joined fittingly together by different ligaments to the head, and each part works corporately with other parts, so it is with the church. Love is the important trait that controls the functionality of all parts of the church body in relation to one another.

9. What does the term mean “carried about by every wind of doctrine.”?
10. What is the danger of this type of spiritual instability (being tossed by the wind)?
11. According to Paul, how should truth be communicated?
12. Why did Paul refer to all born-again believers as the “Body of Christ”?
13. What is the most important trait that should control the functionality of all parts of the church body in relation to one another?