

EQUIPPED TO SERVE

I Corinthians 12:27-31

God provides all that we need to do all that He wants in our service to Him.

I. GOD'S APPOINTMENT - I Corinthians 12:27-31

A. A SPECIAL AGENT (27)

- As members of Christ's body

B. ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT (28)

- Appointed by a particular person, for a particular location with a particular ministry

C. WITH SPECIALIZED SKILLS (29-30)

- Not everyone doing the same things

D. AND A SPECIAL ATTITUDE (12:31-13:7)

- Doing all in love

II. THE ARRANGEMENT

A. LISTED GIFTS

- See I Cor. 12:28 and also 12:8-10 then Romans 12:6-8 and Eph. 4:11

B. TEMPORARY GIFTS

1. Some gifts were designed to go away after the Bible was completed - I Cor. 13:8-10
2. Their purpose was to confirm the message and messengers of God while the 1st century church was being formed - See Hebrews 2:1-4
3. Temporary gifts include apostleship, prophecy, miracles, healing, tongues and interpretation of tongues.
4. For more information see the handout "Temporary Spiritual Gifts" available in the foyer

C. PERMANENT GIFTS

1. These are timeless gifts that are still given to believers for use in the church today
2. Permanent gifts can be divided into two groups - **See I Peter 4:11**
 - a. Those who speak: They include evangelist, pastor, teacher and exhorter
 - b. Those who serve: These include helps, giving, leadership, mercy, faith and discernment

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III. OUR EQUIPMENT: Those who speak

- Focusing on the speaking gifts this week and next week on the ministry gifts

A. AN EVANGELIST - Ephesians 4:11 and II Timothy 4:5

1. The Ability

- a. This one has a special ability to relate to and reach the lost
- b. The skill to explain the gospel with creativity and clarity

2. The Purpose

- a. Reaching the unsaved: Note Paul in Athens in Acts 17:30
- b. Expanding the church in a community: See Timothy's commission in I Timothy 4:5

3. An Example: Philip in Acts 8:5-8 with 8:40 and also 8:26-39

4. A Caution

- Just because some are specially gifted as an evangelist does not remove every believer's responsibility to be a witness for Christ - See Matthew 28:19-20

B. A PASTOR - Ephesians 4:11

1. The Work

- a. One who is able to lead, guard and feed a local church - See Acts 20:28-30
- b. One with access to extensive Bible training - Note II Timothy 2:15

2. The Requirements

- a. The right person - I Timothy 2:11-14 > Not a women
- b. The right character - I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9
- c. The right example - I Timothy 4:12
- d. The right mission - II Timothy 4:1-5
- e. The right personality - I Peter 5:2-3

3. The Potential

- Seek to identify and encourage young men regarding pastoral ministry - Read Acts 16:1-2

4. An Example: Titus > See Titus 1:5, 2:1, 7-8, 3:1, 9

C. A TEACHER - Romans 12:7, I Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11

1. The Goal

- a. One who is able to provide doctrinal stability for the church
- b. Providing the accurate and clear communication of God's truths
- c. Having an ability to clearly explain and carefully apply God's Word
- d. As a giving or instruction and insight from God's Word, they must enjoy personal Bible study

2. The Reality

- a. A Bible-believing church stays that way when good teachers are in place and there are others coming up who can replace them as needed
- b. See Revelation 3:8-11 and the church at Philadelphia

3. Two Examples

a. James

- At the Jerusalem Council - Acts 15:13-21
- In the book of James - See 1:12, 2:1, 3:15, 4:1, 7-8 and 5:7-8

b. Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26

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D. AN EXHORTER - Romans 12:8

1. A Persuader like Paul
 - a. This is one who makes a appeal for action - See II Corinthians 12:18 and Philemon 9
 - b. One who inspires or comforts - Acts 14:21-22
 - c. One able to make a case and defend it - I Thessalonians 2:11
 - d. Sometimes one who warns, admonishes or rebukes - See Galatians 2:11-14
2. An Encourager like Barnabus
 - a. His nature - Acts 4:35-36 > He is known as an encourager
 - b. His ministry > See Acts 9:26-27 and 15:36-39
 - c. A mentor - Romans 15:14 > Coming alongside to minister to others

CONCLUSION:

God has specially appointed speakers in our congregation with specially given gifts to do the work of building up His church in this location.

Let's make sure we're using the equipment we have and serving together to accomplish great things for God.