

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**