

Unity through Diversity

Eph. 4:7-13

We each have a gift given through Christ. 7-10

- *Each is given* = every believer is gifted, Rom. 12:4ff. I Cor. 12:4-7.
- Do you know your areas of giftedness? You should, Rom. 12:3.
A few gifts are in v.11. See also Rom. 12:6-8, I Pt. 4:11, I Cor. 12
- Our giftedness is a result of Christ's costly victory over the satanic realm, which gives Him the right to share gifts / tribute just as a victorious king might do for his kingdom (see Ps. 68). *Lower parts* probably describes Hades, Rom. 10:6,7, I Pt. 3:18-20.

We have been given gifted people to equip us for service. 11,12

- These gifts have the responsibility to help believers (see *saints* in 1:1,15) to do the work of service / ministry not to do it alone.
- What are some things done here at Grace to help folks do the work of service? Are you taking advantage of such things?

We have the God-given goal of unity and maturity. 13

- Unity is preserved because of attitudes in v. 2, but corporate maturing requires each one using his / her gift, I Cor. 12:4-7.
- The *fullness of Christ* is our unified goal, recall *fullness* earlier (completeness) in 1:23, 3:19, Col. 1:19. We must all together use our gifts in unison ("humbly grab a handle") to achieve it.

