

“Your Grace-Gift Assignment”

Ephesians 4:7-16

C.I.T.—A life worthy means a life maturing.

C.I.S.—We must take responsibility to grow and mature.

Purpose—I want our people to see that we have a responsibility to mature and disciple ourselves and our families.

Introduction—Life worthy—unity—but—unity through diversity

I. **Embrace your grace-gift.** Vs. 7-10

- a. Grace
 - i. Context of Ephesians 3—grace given to Paul was His apostleship.
 - ii. This grace refers to an assignment or an appointment from God for ministry.
- b. Given to each one of us
 - i. To give or to appoint
 - ii. refers to all Christians
 - iii. Aorist—refers to a common experience
 - iv. Upon our salvation, we received this grace-gift
- c. According to the measure
 - i. Christ is the one who determines what grace we receive
 - ii. This is according to His plan for us individually and the kingdom collectively.
- d. Ascended on high
 - i. Jesus as a conquering General both receiving and giving the spoils of war.
 - ii. This giving was intended to be a blessing.
- e. Illus.—Designer suit—tailor made for you.
- f. Application
 - i. This assignment comes with *charismata*, special gifts—Romans 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12
 - ii. This grace-gift assignment matches your personal talents and passions.
 - iii. Only you can fill it, so embrace this tailor made assignment.

II. **Encourage your grace-gift.** Vs. 11-12

- a. He grace-gifted certain people as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teachers
- b. Equip the saints
 - i. Saints refers to saved people who have received a grace-gift
 - ii. Equipping means to outfit someone for battle or to restore something/someone back to fitness
- c. Illus.—Outfitting a new duck hunter
- d. Application
 - i. The way to encourage is to submit to the ministry of equipping ministers.
 - ii. Pastor, ministers, teachers, etc.
 - iii. The ministries of the church can help equip you, but if you don't take responsibility to develop, you never will.

III. **Exercise your grace-gift.** Vs. 12

- a. You are equipped to work in the context of your grace-gift.
- b. Work refers to labor, sweating
- c. Ministry—diakonos—deacon/table servant
- d. Illus.—Time to go hunting, and the new duck hunter stays in bed
- e. Application
 - i. All of that discipleship and equipping is for not if you don't put it to work.
 - ii. We have been given a job, so do it!

Conclusion

- Embracing, encouraging, and exercising your grace-gift assignment will lead to spiritual maturity, doctrinal integrity, and spiritual growth. Vs. 13-16

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- This is only as the diverse parts are working in unity.
- How do we do this? Connect-Grow-Serve