

FOUNDATIONS 101 – THE CHURCH

Titles for the Church:

Church: Ecclesia – A called out assembly

The Bride of Christ – The relational aspect of who we are.

The Body of Christ – The practical aspect of who we are to one another and the world around us.

THE CALLING

As the Church, we are to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:16). We have a call to personal and corporate holiness. Paul's references to the church was with the word "saints". The word in Greek is 'hagios' which means 'holy or separated ones. Set apart ones.' The holy things purpose is God. Anytime something was 'sanctified' in the Bible, it was removed from world's ownership and put directly into the use of God. We are thus, sanctified ones, set apart for the use of God. He, as our King, has all rights to use us in the ways and fashions as it pleases Him.

THE COVENANT

As the Bride of Christ, we are presently espoused to Christ. He has gone to His Father's house to prepare a dwelling for His bride. One day He will return to gather His bride together to Himself and we will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Until that day, being in the position of honor as His bride, we have the responsibility not to adulterate ourselves with the wooings of the the world system in which we live. God soundly rebuked the Israelites for 'adultery' when they were guilty of selling out to other gods around them. In like manner, we have the responsibility to purity before our Bridegroom and as Ephesians 5 states, to "submission" to our Husband. Submission comes from the Greek word 'prothesis' which means to rank under. He is our Authority in this world and has all rights to show us His way and our way. We are to submit to His position of love, protection, and provision.

THE COOPERATION

As the Body of Christ, we are each gifted, and we are each limited in our giftings. The only Person who ever lived who was completely gifted was Jesus Christ. He possessed

all giftings in their entirety. He demonstrated them as He walked the path to the cross. He never hesitated to pour out all He was on all who needed. Before He left, He told His disciples that He would send back His Spirit, and the indwelling Spirit would empower them to do greater things than He did. Corporately, the Church has more potential than Jesus Himself, not because we are individually capable, but because we are corporately able. We must work together to be all we can be, not separately. We must fully understand the importance of each person in the body of Christ and stop acting like we can get it done without the others. WE CAN'T, AND WE CAN'T WITHOUT THE HEAD. Only He has the authority and the position to control the individual parts of His body. Listen and obey.

I. The Giftings Personal:

A. Natural Giftings:

1. Encouragement
2. Leadership
3. Giving
4. Administration
5. Artistic
6. Communication
7. Courage
8. Helping
9. Hospitality
10. Knowledge
11. Compassion
12. Etc....

The natural giftings all are enhanced by the Spirit's presence.

B. Spiritual Giftings - I Cor. 12

1. Word of Wisdom (I Cor. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned).
2. Word of Knowledge (I Cor 2:14)
3. Faith (David facing Goliath)
4. Gift of healing (Elijah, Jesus, Peter, etc...)
5. Working of miracles (Elijah, Jesus, Paul, etc...)
6. Prophecy (All writers of Scripture, Pastors, Teachers)
7. Discerning of spirits (Jesus before the demoniac of Gedara)
8. Tongues (The day of Pentecost, Acts 2)
9. Interpretation of tongues
10. Martyrdom (Stephen)
11. Giving (usually is preceded by the gift of getting, but not always)

- 12. Mercy (the uncanny ability to withhold judgment and retaliation)
- 13. Service (People who are behind the scenes making it happen)
- 14. Helps (the good Samaritans)
- 15. Miracles (the gifting to call God down)

II. The Giftings Professionals:

A. These are people who have been called into leadership in the Church.

- 1. Leadership (those called to lead and direct the body)
- 2. Prophecy (the voice of God)
 - a. Point to note. There were three offices in the Old Testament. Prophet. Priest. King. Prophets were God's representatives to the people. Priests were people's representatives to God. Kings were people's representatives to people.
 - b. Prophets sometimes, but not always, prophesied about future happenings. The one common denominator of prophetic statements were the words, "thus saith the LORD." People who are specifically called forth by God in the present generation to proclaim God's Word are modern day prophets.
 - c. Priests carried out the office of making sure the work of God was accomplished. Some were doing the grunt work, some were called to do the "priestly" work. All were working together to make sure the people were represented fully before the throne of God.
 - d. Kings were chosen to be the people's "go to". They provided for and protected those under their watch care. Their position was not for personal gain or glory even though that became the practice.
- 3. Teaching (the ability to make truth alive to the hearer)
- 4. Evangelism (the ability and courage to share Christ in an empowered fashion)
- 5. Administration (helping the body operate in a smooth manner)
- 6. Pastor (committed to the sheep in every way. He knows them. They know him. This gifting may or may not possess great oratorical skills.)
- 7. Apostle (People who have clearly walked with Christ and are there to tell others and inspire others to do the same)
- 8. Exhortation (those with the gifting to light fires under the feet of others)
- 9. Missionary (those called to go to other places where the Gospel hasn't gone with the message of Christ)

Romans 12

[exhortation](#)

[giving](#)

[leadership](#)

[mercy](#)

[prophecy](#)
[service](#)
[teaching](#)

1 Corinthians 12

[administration](#)
[apostle](#)
[discernment](#)
[faith](#)
[healings](#)
[helps](#)
[knowledge](#)
[miracles](#)
[prophecy](#)
[teaching](#)
[tongues](#)
[tongues interpretation](#)
[wisdom](#)

Ephesians 4

[apostle](#)
[evangelism](#)
[pastor](#)
[prophecy](#)
[teaching](#)

Misc. Passages

[celibacy](#)
[hospitality](#)
[martyrdom](#)
[missionary](#)
[voluntary poverty](#)

- III. The Giftings Purpose:
 - A. For Christ to be seen and manifested in the contemporary world.
 - B. For the Church to operate together as one.
 - C. For the workings of Christ to be present and apparent in every generation.
 - D. To discourage pride. When we understand we are all equally gifted, just differently, we cease to think we are the 'cock of the walk'.
- IV. The Giftings Participation:
 - A. To understand that we are to operate corporately.
 - B. To understand that our presence is needed.
 - C. To understand our need of the others in the body.
- V. The Giftings Potential:

"Greater things than you have seen Me do, you shall do, because I go to the Father and shall send back My Spirit."