

Ephesians 4.11.-16 NASB

Apostles – Eyewitnesses of Christ/ Sent out spiritual leaders

Prophets – OT Prophets / Prophetic gifts of fore-telling and forth-telling.

Evangelists – Spreading the Gospel/Missionaries

Pastors – Shepherds and teachers- instructors of God's ways.

Why Did Jesus give these gifts?

1. The equipping/training of the saints for ministry.
2. To attain the unity of the faith
3. Grow in the knowledge of the Son of God.
4. To grow to maturity
5. Measuring to the stature, of the fullness of Christ.

So we won't... (v.14-15)

1. Be infants tossed here and there
2. Be blown away by odd doctrines.
3. Be susceptible to deceitful scheming, and the trickery of man.

Tools for Ministry

1. Knowledge through teaching
2. Instruction (includes inspiration, oversight, mentoring)
3. Experience (opportunities)
4. Permission
5. Power (through prayer, blessing, and encouragement).

Colossians 3.22-24 *“Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”* (Colossians 3:22–24, NASB95)

Incorrect Ideas of Calling

1. Your calling is your occupation.
2. Your calling is your place in Life
3. Calling is only for pastors/missionaries

Our calling is “in the Lord” and that is our life!

For continued personal, group, and family discussion

Read Ephesians 4. 11 16

1. What are your observations? What jumps out at you?
2. How has the church defined the role of the pastor historically and traditionally?
3. How common is it that people see themselves as “ministers”?
4. Pastor taught on these gifts. Here are the notes below. Has someone with one of these gifts really impacted your life?

The Gifts

Apostles – Eyewitnesses of Christ/ Sent out spiritual leaders

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Pastors – Shepherds and teachers- instructors of God’s ways.

5. Pastor said there are 5 reasons for the gifts give and they are below. Read them over and discuss them. Why Did Jesus give these gifts?
 - The equipping/training of the saints for ministry.
 - To attain the unity of the faith
 - Grow in the knowledge of the Son of God.
 - To grow to maturity
 - Measuring to the Stature, of the fullness of Christ.
6. We are to keep growing so we won’t be infants. How does the bible describe infants in these passages?
7. Read Colossians 3. 22-24
8. What did pastor say our ministry is?
9. If our ministry is our life “in the Lord’, how does that change the way you look at home life, parenting, leisure, friendship, and vocation?
10. Why is this so hard for Christians to grasp that they are ministers, all the time, not just in the church, but in the Lord and in life?

Close in prayer about opportunities to be a minister in the Lord in our lives.