



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

EPHESIANS

SESSION 7B: THE UNIFIED EFFORT

Ephesians 4:1-16

"Exploring the new standards and new relationships God intends for us"

By Rev. Rick Dietzman, Minister of Adult Discipleship

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." - Ephesians 4:11-12

Apostles have the ability to start new ministries where there are none, prophets can picture what the future may look like and may also be gifted in seeing what needs to be corrected, evangelists draw in unbelievers and make salvation clear, pastors care for believers, and teachers instruct and disciple. All are to prepare and equip believers for works of service.

1. Read Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. What spiritual gifts are mentioned in addition to ones listed above? _____

• What was Christ's ultimate purpose in giving these gifts? _____

• Should we expect to see all of these gifts in our church today? _____
Why? _____

2. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If you don't, check out the Digging Deeper section at the end of this study for more information. If you do, in what ways are you using your gifts to help others in the church grow? _____

• What else could you be doing to better utilize these gifts this year? _____

3. We sometimes put undue emphasis on the pastoral role and neglect the others. Do you

think all of these roles are important in the church today? _____

Why? _____

4. What could our church leaders do to help you be more "prepared for works of service"?

"...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." - Ephesians 4:13-16

5. How does spiritual infancy differ from spiritual maturity? _____

6. Paul says that the "whole body grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work." What steps would you like to take to move more fully toward this goal? _____

7. Speaking "the truth in love" means confronting the lies society hands us and lovingly helping others to make an unwavering commitment to Christ. Is there anyone in your life who is being tossed and turned and would benefit from hearing the truth from you?

Digging Deeper

For those who want to do more personal reflection on this topic.

The following is adapted from part of the "301 CLASS" that we offer at Sequim Community Church, which covers in depth how to recognize and use your spiritual gifts. We highly recommend that everyone in the church take this class at some point. It is now being offered several times a year. Here's a taste of what you'll learn!

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

" Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be ignorant." I Corinthians 12:1

A Spiritual Gift: A special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.

10 TRUTHS

1. Only Christians have spiritual gifts. *I Corinthians 2:14*
2. Every Christian has at least one gift. *I Corinthians 7:7*

3. No one receives all the gifts. *I Corinthians 12:27-30*
4. No single gift is given to everyone. *I Corinthians 12:29-30*
5. You can't earn or work for a spiritual gift. *Ephesians 4:7*
6. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get. *I Corinthians 12:11*
7. The gifts I am given are permanent. *Romans 11:29*
8. I am to develop the gifts God gives me. *I Timothy 4:14*
9. It's a sin to waste the gifts God gave me. *I Corinthians 4:1-2,*
10. Using my gifts glorifies God and helps me to grow! *John 15:8*

How to discover your gift: Get started!!

1. Take CLASS 301
2. Fill out a spiritual gifts inventory - which you will do in 301
3. Ask others what gifts they see in you.
4. Try various ministry opportunities (example: committees, small group facilitating, service and mission projects) and see what energizes you. You'll be able to connect to some of these after taking 301

**IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY
THAN TO DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFT**

There are four primary texts that provide for our understanding of spiritual gifts. Read these passages and note what you observe.

• I Corinthians 12 - 14: _____

• Ephesians 4: 1 - 16: _____

• Romans 12: 1 - 8: _____

• I Peter 4: 8-11 _____

