

MONDAY NIGHT MEETING

EPHESIANS - DIVERSITY AND GROWTH

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Unity is not uniformity

B. Paul introduces gifts and their role in growth

1. Paul uses the word for gifts in a variety of ways
2. Context must determine the meaning

II. GIFTS AND THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

A. Diversity of the body

1. *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift - Ephesians 4:7*
 - a. Grace is a description of any kind of blessing to us
 - b. Gift here could be
 - 1) A personal giftedness
 - 2) Blessing through the giftedness of others

B. Descent and ascent of Christ

1. Best understood to parallel Philippians 2
2. Descent is Christ coming to the earth and entering death
3. Ascent is the resurrection and exaltation to heaven

EPHESIANS - DIVERSITY AND GROWTH

C. Issue of gifts

1. Jesus led captive a host of captives
 - a. The captives are the people who have come to know Him
 - b. They are now at His disposal
 - 1) First servants of Christ
 - 2) Then given as slaves to the church
2. Jesus then gives them to the church

III. PURPOSE OF THE GIFTING

A. Paul speaks of offices or roles rather than specific capacities

1. Men in each of these roles could vary greatly in personality and even gift
 - a. Peter - Paul - John

B. They are examples of men who perform particular duties

C. Goal of their service

1. Unity of the faith
2. Knowledge of the Son of God
3. Mature Men
4. Measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ

D. Everyone contributes to this end

1. Grows according to the proper working of each individual part
2. Built up into love