

# BUILDING BLOCKS FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



## Serve to Build Week of June 6, 2021

### Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *Optional Question - What did God reveal to you this past week in the Bible Reading Plan last week?*
- *Intro Question - What is the greatest example of teamwork that you have ever witnessed? Why?*

### Read Bible Study Summary:

One of the most beautiful rewards of salvation is that God makes all Christians one in Christ. There is one body of believers from one Lord who gives us one Spirit. Unity, therefore, is not something to be created, but something to be maintained and built upon. Although the church is unified, Scripture teaches us that it is made up of diverse human beings who all come together and use their diverse gifts to serve the Lord and each other to build up the body of Christ.

### Main Scripture

- ***Read Ephesians 4:7-13***

### How Does Jesus Equip Us to Serve Him and the Church?

#### 1. He Gives Each Believer a Gift

- The Apostle Paul is very clear that unity in the church is not uniformity. Yes, the church is unified in the body by the same Spirit because of the same Lord. However, this unity does not mean all Christians are alike. Instead, Christ has graciously, intentionally, and uniquely gifted individuals with a spiritual gift.
- He mixes together several different spiritual abilities and then intentionally gives that gift to a specific person. And, he intends for that person to use that gift in the body in order to contribute to the great purpose of the church--to make disciples of all nations. The gift for you is as unique as your fingerprint. For, the text says, "But grace was given to each one [not each group] of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."
  - ***Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 27-31***
  - ***Read Romans 12:4-8***
  - ***Ask Question(s)***

- What is the spiritual gift that Jesus has given to you? What are the various spiritual abilities that he has blessed you with and how has the Spirit empowered you to utilize this gift? (Where were you serving, what did it look like?)
- In what ways has God clarified how he might want you to use this gift in the church and in the community?
- In what ways do you value the giftings of other people and encourage them to use their gifts?

## 2. He Gives the Church a Gift

- God has gifted each Christian with a spiritual gift, but he has also given the church as a group the gift of certain leaders. These leaders are responsible to God for this position. In fact, Paul describes their purpose in our text: “[The leaders of the church] are to equip the saints for the work of ministry, building up the body of Christ.” Who are these leaders?
  - An **apostle** is a sent one. In this particular sense, an apostle is a sent one of Christ. Therefore, only the twelve disciples and Paul, who was specially called by Christ as an apostle, hold this position. The apostles in the early church were directly sent by the living Christ and were authenticated by signs and wonders (2 Cor. 12:12) and they were responsible for laying the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20).
  - A **prophet** is one who speaks forth the very Words of God. The gift of prophecy still exists, but this is no longer a new revelation, only an explanation or application of God’s revelation in the Bible.
  - An **evangelist** is one who is specifically gifted in proclaiming the gospel of Christ to those who have not been redeemed.
  - The **pastor-teacher** is responsible for the care, guidance, and discipleship of Christ’s people that God entrusts to them. Teaching is the primary responsibility of the pastor. When you look at the list of qualifications for the pastor described in both 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, you will notice the ability to teach is listed.
    - **Read 1 Timothy 3**
    - **Ask Question(s)**
      - *If you can recall a specific example, share a personal testimony of how God has used a leader to bless your life?*
      - *In what ways do you pray for the leaders of the church?*
      - *Has God ever stirred in your heart the desire to minister to the church as a leader? If so, in what ways have you discussed this desire with other leaders or mentors in the church?*

## Closing

- Visit the REALationships Center at the church lobby if you would like more information on how to discover your spiritual gift.
- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.