

Strengths from a Biblical Perspective

The Concept of the Priesthood of all Believers

- 1 Peter 2:9

- 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- NIV

The Book of Ephesians

- Ephesians is St Paul's crowning epistle communicating his understanding of how the Body of Christ is to function.

Who Was This Letter Written To?

- Eph 1:1

- 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

- To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

- NIV

First Chapter of Ephesians

- Eph 1:4

- 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

- Just think of that, he knew us and called/chose us before the creation of the world!*

First Chapter of Ephesians

- Eph 1:18-19

- 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

First Chapter of Ephesians

- Eph 1:22-23

- And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

- The body of Christ the Church is to be the very fullness of Christ to the earth.

Second Chapter of Ephesians

- 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Eph 2:10

Third Chapter of Ephesians

- Eph 3:20-21
- 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Why don't people use this great power for good? For the Church?

- Because they do not know they have it!
- Most people do not see themselves as gifted or talented.
- Most people do not understand God has known them and called them before the creation of the world.
- Most people do not understand God has called them to not just be good but to be holy and blameless before them.

Why don't people use this great power for good? For the Church?

- Most people do not understand it is all grace! Totally unmerited, unearned, unasked for but freely and generously given to us.

Each One without Exception

But to *each one* of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. Eph 4:7

Now to *each one* the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good 1 Cor: 12:7

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to *each one*, just as He determines 1Cor: 12:11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

- To each one, who does that leave out?

God's Gift of Equipments

- Eph 4:11-13
- 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, (to equip the people for ministry) **so that**

The outcome of equipping the members of the Body.

- Eph 4:12-13

- so that the body of Christ may be built up 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.

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So That - Five Vital Outcomes

- 1. the body of Christ may be built up until

- 2. we all reach unity in the faith and

- 3. in the knowledge of the Son of God and 4. become mature,

- 5. attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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Only as Each Part Does Its Work

- Eph 4:15-16

- speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 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.**

The missing key-each part

- Each part without exception is to be equipped for ministry, released into ministry in which God has called them and only then will the Body of Christ accomplish the five glorious outcomes.

Those we may consider as insignificant God views differently

- 1 Cor 12:22-27

- those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

Think of the Widow and the Mite

- 1 Cor 12:24

- But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

Each one of you is a part of it.

- 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

- 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

What would your Church look like. . .To ask this again

- If your members were equipped and engaged in ministries that made the most of their gifts and talents?**
- If each one in your church had the opportunity to do what God designed them to do best?**

Putting it Simply

Don't try to put in what God left out.

Instead, try to draw out what God put in.

That is hard enough.

Ministry is about releasing the potential in each person – helping them do what God designed them to do best.

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Ideation | Input | Communication | Maximizer | Connectedness