

Verse 10

Each one has received a special gift. Employ it in serving others.

Every believer has been given a gift by God as He wills. There is not one child of God who God has not given a gift by His grace to be used for His kingdom (Ephesians 4:7). **The purpose of these gifts is not to be used for selfish reasons, but for the common good of building up the Church, the body of Christ.**

Paul uses the analogy of the body to describe the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)(Romans 12:4-8). Christ is the head of the body (Colossians 1:18) and the believers make up the body. Just as the body is one unit, but is made of different parts with different functions and roles, so is the Church. The body of Christ, the Church, is used in comparison with the human body. The body is a singular thing but is made of many different parts which are vital for the total and complete functioning of the body. Some body parts are bigger, some are more visible, others are small and may seem insignificant. However, each body part serves a perfect function as it was designed by the Creator. This is the same with the body of Christ. He has given each believer gifts, talents, and abilities by His own purpose and design. You are who you are and are given the exact gifts and abilities that were perfect in His plan. There are no small roles or parts in His body (the Church). Each individual church has been given the exact people with the exact gifts that God desires to have given for His glory in the Church and to serve those around. We must never think that our talents are not big or meaningful and conversely, we must not be arrogant or boastful thinking that our gifts are from us and a result of our own merit. All gifts are from God and are to be presented back as a sacrifice for His service leading to His glory.

- 1 Corinthians 12:6-7 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Good stewards

When we hear the word steward, we often tend to think the Bible is exclusively meaning in regards to money. We are to be good stewards of our money, but we are to be good stewards of much more than just money.

The Greek word used in reference to stewardship is the word "oikonomia" which is where the English word economics is derived. The meaning of this word is "house law." Stewards in the Bible were not the owners of the house, but those who were hired to manage the house of someone else. The Bible says that we are to manage the manifold grace of God that He has given us by serving those around us. God has given you grace in salvation and also in gifts to be used for the building up of the church. We have received grace, let us show grace.

We are to be good stewards of the grace and gifts that He has given us. We are to be a good steward of all that God has given us, because all that we have comes from Him.

Are we being good stewards of: gifts He has given us, the Gospel, the Word, our testimony, being a father, being a mother, being a spouse, employment, time, money, etc?

- All that we have is not ours, it is from God and we are managing what He has given. How are you in stewarding what the sovereign holy God of the universe has entrusted to you?

Verses on being entrusted: Galatians 2:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 1 Corinthians 9:16-18, 1 Timothy 1:11, 1 Timothy 6:20

Verse 11

Those who have been given the gift to speak or those who speak in their witnessing, must speak the utterances of God, or also known as the oracles of God. This means that those who speak, must speak the words of God. They are not to speak their own words or opinions, but rather the immutable and infallible words of God. The greatest gift the church has with them is the Word of God which must be the foundation of all things. It is by this word that faith comes and it is by this word that is the foundation of apologetics. Christians must speak the words of God which becomes impossible in times in which we are slandering, speaking deceit, or reviling others. Let only the pure words of God and the praise of Him be in our mouths and on our lips. A sign of a true, sincere, and spiritually growing church is the love of the word of God. The word, above all else, must be the center of the Church. The true

sheep will long and desire the sheep food which is the word and with this increased knowledge of the Word of God will bring about more sincere and true worship and doxology!

When we serve God through our service to others, we are to rest in the strength of God in all that we do. God has given us the strength to do all that we are called and we can do all things through Him who gives us the strength (Phil 4:13). All that we do for the Lord, we are to do it with all our might and strength (Ecc 9:10) and with great zeal to build up the Church which is His body as He is the head.

Doxology

At the end of this verse, Peter breaks out in a doxology with a declaration that God be glorified. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for “glory” was the word *kavod*. This word carried the meaning and idea of the weightiness of God in regards to His being and to His intrinsic glory. The Greek word “doxa” is where we derive the word “glory.” This is where the word doxology comes from, meaning that we give glory, praise, and worship to God. Throughout the Bible, the authors of the books of the Bible burst out into doxology in the middle of their writings when they consider the glory of God. The greater knowledge and theology of who God is, the greater praise and glory will be given to God. Higher theology=higher doxology.

There are to categories of glory

- **Intrinsic glory**-This refers to God’s unchanging glory. This is who God is. It is the Holy being of God! This is the sum of the greatness of all God’s attributes. This glory of God can never be added to or taken away, but is immutable, and not affected by outside forces. He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. (Heb 13:8). We do not give God intrinsic glory, but this His being. Psalm 90:2:”Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”
 - Verses on intrinsic glory: Psalm 138:5, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 104:31, Ephesians 3:16
- **Ascribed glory** -This refers to the glory “doxa” or praise we give to Him. This glory (ascribed glory) is directly linked with His intrinsic glory. The more we understand His intrinsic glory and who He is, the more we will respond with ascribed glory. We can add to or reduce the intrinsic glory we give God. Theology=doxology.
 - Verses on ascribed glory: 1 Chronicles 16:16:28-29, Psalm 29:1-2, Psalm 96:7-8, Ephesians 3:21, 1 Timothy 1:17, Rev 4:11, Rev 5:12-13
 - The higher we see God’s intrinsic glory, the more we ascribe glory to Him. Understanding God’s intrinsic glory has a direct correlation to the ascribed glory we give God. His intrinsic glory doesn’t change, but our ascribed glory to Him can vary!

God is to be glorified in all aspects of our lives, including all the things He has entrusted us to be steward of.

Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory ^[a]forever. Amen.