

Go Deep Leadership Gifts For The Church

As we've seen with all of the gifts we've already studied, they are to bring maturity and health to the Church. This is to help us *both* edify the saints *and* evangelize the sinners.

Leadership gifts in the Church—**Ephesians 4:1-16**

“The purpose of the Body is to nurture each of its members into the perfect image of Christ (vv. 12-15). The idea of growth, as expressed in these verses, seems to apply both to individuals and to the church as a whole. The childhood of the church will pass. Its maturity will come. ... Whether there will ever be in this world an outward, organic unity of the visible church, we do not know. The selfishness and pride of people are against it. But there always has been, and still is, a unity in the invisible church of God's true saints—a unity that will somehow, sometime, somewhere come to full fruition in answer to Christ's own prayer (John 17) and manifest itself as the full-grown Body of Christ.” —Dr. Henry Halley

In order to facilitate this growth of maturity, gifts are given to the church in the form of people in leadership roles. Note the similarity—*God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues* (1 Corinthians 12:28).

The leadership gifts

1. A _____—*apostoles*

- A delegate or m _____; one sent forth with o _____.
- First the 12 men chosen by Jesus—Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16
- Active in the Church—*With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all* (Acts 4:33).
- Others are called apostles: Barnabas (Acts 14:14), other brothers (2 Corinthians 8:23), James (Galatians 1:19), Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)
- Remember what satan cannot prevent, he will try to pervert. So there are also false apostles—2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 2:2

2. P _____—*prophetes*

- “Men filled with the Spirit, who by God's authority and command in words of weight pleads the cause of God and urges salvation of men.” —Dr. James Strong

- Usually forth-tellers of God’s Word—Acts 13:1, 15:32
- Prophets usually say, “Thus says the Lord” (c.f. 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Sometimes foretellers of coming events—Acts 11:27-30, 21:10-11
- Speak weighty words for others to ponder—1 Corinthians 14:29

3. E _____—*evangelistes*

- bringer of good news
- New Testament evangelists: Philip (Acts 21:8) and Timothy (2 Timothy 4:5)
- Jesus wanted the *good news* preached throughout the whole world—Matthew 26:13

4. S _____—*poimen*

- a herdsman or shepherd; the p_____ o_____
- The same word—Luke 2:8 and Ephesians 4:11
- “A shepherd in the Near East was responsible for watching out for enemies trying to attack the sheep, defending the sheep from attackers, healing the wounded and sick sheep, finding and saving lost or trapped sheep, loving them, and sharing their lives and to earn their trust.” —Dr. James Strong
- Foretold in Jeremiah 3:15, fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 9:36, and now vital in a healthy church

5. T _____—*didaskalos*

- One who teaches concerning the t_____ of God, and the d_____ of man.
- Three main duties: (1) impart instruction, (2) instill doctrine, and (3) clearly explain biblical principles
- There were teachers pre-Pentecost: Nicodemus (John 3:10)
- Teachers post-Pentecost: Acts 13:1; 2 Timothy 1:11
- False teachers—Acts 20:29; 2 Timothy 4:3; 2 Corinthians 3:1 (AMP); (Galatians 5:9 AMP)