

Where Every Part is in Place

Ephesians 4:7-16

October 4, 2020

But... (verse 7)

Unity is not uniformity

Diversity in harmony is the kingdom reality: 1 Corinthians 12

Rooted in Trinitarian reality and evidence everywhere in creation

John Ruskin: beauty as symmetry and variety, regularity & irregularity

To Each One...(verse 7)

Everyone included

Gifted by Christ: verse 8 (quoting Psalm 68:18)

The intentionality and artistry of God: Psalm 139, Ephesians 2:10

Not for self-actualization but contributing critically to the whole

Bunny Trail...(verse 9-10)

Received or given in Psalm 68:18: Targums

Ascension and Incarnation

Physical and spiritual realms covered

The Five Fold Gifts...(verse 11)

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

Other gift lists include 1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11

Four possible approaches:

1. These five gifts are symbolic subset representing all the various gifts
2. These is the minority set of local church "leaders" distinguished from "the saints"
3. This is a way to categorize ALL Christians as being one of these "types"
4. All Christians have one (or more) of these energizing bents

The Goal of the Gifts Working Together...(verse 12-15)

Equip the saints =

Work of the ministry =

Building up of the body of Christ =

-Attain a unity of faith

-Knowledge of the Son of God =

Maturity =

-The stature of the fullness of Christ

-Not being tossed around by deceptions

-Speaking the truth in love

Overview Summary...(verse 15-16)

Christ is the head
All of us connected to Him and to each other
Growth requires contribution from BOTH the head and the joints
Love is (always) the fruit

Final Exhortation

Invitation to play your part in Highland's life and mission
Discover it, name it, and put it to use
Try taking the five fold ministry test: <https://fivefoldministry.com>
Don't need to wait to be asked. Don't wait for programs.
Offer your offering.