

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 38 (#912218)
WEEK 8 (912348)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 38 – As Part Of The Body Of Christ, We Are To Be
Equipped To Serve In Ministry**

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever had a part of your body stop working? I mean maybe you broke an arm or maybe all of a sudden your back was just out and your legs wouldn’t even move the way they were supposed to move. Or maybe even more tragically you were in an accident and you were paralyzed. It’s hard isn’t it? It’s difficult because the body can’t do what it was made to do. And that’s what happens in the body of Jesus Christ Beloved when you and I aren’t working properly for God’s purpose. We’ll talk about it today as we look at His precepts for life.

PART ONE

I am so excited, Beloved, to be in the book of Ephesians with you and to be studying about the church so that you understand what your role is, your

position in the church. In Ephesians chapter 4, in verses 7 all the way through verse 16 he’s going to talk about the church. He’s going to talk about you and I individually operating in the measure of God’s gift to us. He’s going to talk about diversity now after having talked about unity. He’s going to talk in this passage about the importance of coming to the unity of the faith, us coming into one mind and one heart and one understanding of the truth of God’s Word. He’s going to talk about you and I living in such a way so that there is a proper working of each part of the body for the sake of the whole. Let me just read to you Ephesians chapter 4, verse 16 and then we’re going to back up and put it in context. But it says, **“From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies....” (Ephesians 4:16a)** Now just imagine my elbow here waving my arm back and forth. It’s able to do that because the joint is supplying what it needs for the arm to move back and forth. **“...By what every joint supplies...,”** and this is the phrase I want you to see. It’s **“...According to the proper working of each individual part....” (4:16b)** God’s talking to you, to you individually. He’s talking to you personally. He’s talking to you and He wants you to understand today that it is vital that you as part of the body work properly, that you do what God has called you to do and what God has gifted you to do. And it says, **“...According to the proper working of each individual part...” (Ephesians 4:16b)** or the way you could translate it is this way, [according to the working in measure, in measure.] (PARAPHRASED, Ephesians 4:16a) Once again we see the word “measure.” In measure **“...Of each individual part, [how it] causes the growth of the body...,”** the growth of the whole church, **“...For the building up of itself....” (Ephesians 4:16c)** the church. And I’m not talking about a specific denomination. I’m not talking about a specific congregation behind four walls. I’m talking about the whole body of believers, the church of Jesus Christ all around the world. He says, **“...Causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”**

(Ephesians 4:16c) What he’s saying is “I want my body to grow.” Now usually we don’t want our body to grow. We want our body to shrink. But spiritually speaking God wants His body to grow. He wants His body to be built up in love. Now how is God going to accomplish that? Well He’s going to accomplish it first of all by giving to each individual part, each individual member of the body a measure of the grace of God. He’s going to give it to you as a gift. So He wants us as we have seen, and as maybe I belabored a little bit but it’s verse 7, “...**To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.**” **(Ephesians 4:7)** So we were given gifts. Now it says in verse 8 that when Jesus “...**Ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.**” **(4:8)** Now what are the gifts that He gave to men and how did He do this? Well I want you to go with me back to 1 Corinthians chapter 12 because we’ve looked at it before and let’s look at 1 Corinthians chapter 12. And if you’re writing down verses as I suggested earlier in another program, if you’re writing down verses write this next to either verse 8 or verse 7, because we’ve been looking at spiritual gifts. So 1 Corinthians chapter 4 and what we’re doing is we’re letting Scripture interpret Scripture. The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture. And Scripture never contradicts Scripture. So 1 Corinthians chapter 12, the subject of this chapter is spiritual gifts and he opens by saying, [“I don’t want you to be ignorant about spiritual gifts.”] (PARAPHRASED, 1 Corinthians 12:1) And in verse 4 he says, “...**There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit....There are varieties of ministries, [but] the same Lord.**” **(1 Corinthians 12:4-5)** In other words God has at least 19 or 21 gifts that are mentioned in the Word of God and that’s where I would stick. I wouldn’t add any to them. But He has those gifts and “...**There are varieties....**” **(1 Corinthians 12:4a)** but there’s one Spirit behind it all. All right and it says, “**And there are varieties of ministries....**” **(1 Corinthians 12:5a)** In other words we’re going to go out and we’re going to minister, but we’re not all going to minister the same

way. Some of us may work with the poor. Some of us may work with the rich. Some of us may go to hospitals. Some of us may go to institutions of learning or education. Some of us are going to minister in our neighborhoods. Some of us are going to be Sunday School teachers. Some of us are going to work at a soup kitchen and do the cooking. There’s all sorts of different gifts. And so it says, “[And] **there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.**” (1 Corinthians 12:6) Now when you see “**...The same God who works all things in all persons,**” (1 Corinthians 12:6b) you’re mind ought to go back to Ephesians chapter 4, verse 6 where it says, “[There is] **one God and Father of all who is over all...through all and in all.**” (Ephesians 4:6) And so what he’s saying is this and I want you to get it. I want you to understand it. The gifts are from the Spirit. The ministry’s from the Lord and the effect is from God. So here is the Trinity. Here is the God-head, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and it’s all for Him. It’s all for His glory. It’s not for us. It is all for Him. And so he’s saying that, “**There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one...**” (1 Corinthians 12:6-7a) and here again we see the “each one.” He’s speaking to you individually. “**But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit...**” (1 Corinthians 12:7a) the gifts of the Spirit, “**...For the common good,**” (1 Corinthians 12:7b) [for the common good.]” Now watch what he says. “**For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit...to another the word of knowledge [by] the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit...to another gifts of healing by...one Spirit.**” (1 Corinthians 12:8-9) What he’s saying is there’s one Spirit, but there are varieties of gifts. And the manifestation of these gifts is given to each one of us for the common good, for the sake of the whole body, for the sake of the work of the kingdom. Now the other verses that I wanted you to write down are verse 11 and verse 18 in this same chapter. So verse 11 says this, “**But one and the same Spirit works all these things...**” now watch,

“...Distributing to each one individually just as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:11) What’s he saying? He’s saying listen, the gift that you get is not because you desire. It’s because God desires it to be given to you because He has a work for you to do. So who chooses the gifts? Not you, and if anybody tells you this, if you study the Scriptures, Beloved, if you will learn to study inductively, and this is what this program Precepts for Life is all about, if you’ll learn to go to the Word of God and discover truth for yourself then you’ll have a plumb line by which you can discern whether what you’re being taught is right or wrong, whether it’s according to the Scripture or not. And so he says in verse 11, **“But [the] one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:11)** All right, now the next verse that I told you to look at is verse 18. And it says this, **“But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.” (1 Corinthians 12:18)** You see it again, “just according to His will.” So God when He saves you puts you in the body. He may put you in the arm. He may put you in the chest. He may put you in the fingers. He’s just using the body so that you can see that the body has many members. He’s taking a human metaphor and showing you the church. And he’s showing you that each part has to work properly. If He puts you in as an arm He expects you to function as an arm. He doesn’t expect you to function as a foot. You say, but I like what the foot gets to do. I like the shoes that the foot gets to wear. And I don’t get to wear anything unless it’s cold. And then I can put on a glove, but I love shoes. I’m into being feet. No, no, no, no, no, no, no. You should be into being what God wants you to be. The body is not all a foot. The body is not all a hand. He goes on to say in 1 Corinthians 12, **“If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?” (1 Corinthians 12:17a)** You’d just be one big fat eyeball and you’d just be rolling down the street in the dirt getting something in your eye and no hand to get the dirt out of your eye. Do you see what he’s saying? And you couldn’t hear so you’d

be rolling along and you wouldn't have an ear and if a car came along it'd just (*splat sound*) splat you. This is what he's trying to have you see. He's trying to have you see that the body is many members and it's very important for the body to function the way that it's supposed to. Now you've seen bodies, people that are born without arms and so they learn to to cook with their feet, to eat with their feet. It's incredible. They learn to use their feet as their hands. But they have to adjust the whole body because they don't have arms. God has a complete body. And you Precious One are part, a vital part of that body. And God wants you working properly and He has a way to accomplish how He's going to do that. And that's what we're going to see right after this break.

PART TWO

In studying Ephesians chapter 4. We now come to a very crucial verse that really in essence Beloved shows us how we are to be functioning as a church with the proper working of each member of the body. So he talks about when Jesus went up on high, **“...He gave gifts to men.” (Ephesians 4:8)** And so now he's going to mention four gifts that are absolutely vital for the health of the body of Jesus Christ. Watch what he says in verse 11. **“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for...”(4:11-12a)** and this is the purpose. **“...The equipping of the saints [for the work of ministry] for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man....” (4:12-13b)** Mature is the word *“teleiotes.”* It means complete, **“...To the measure...,”** and there's that word again, **“...To the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (4:13c)** In other words what's he saying? That He gave us these four types of gifted people to the church to equip us for the work of the ministry so that we

might be filled up to the fullness of Christ, so that we might be mature, so that we might have this knowledge of the Son of God and that we might **“...Attain to the unity of the faith...to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13 a & c)** Now let’s just stop there and let’s see. What I would like to do is I would like you to get the picture of what he’s going to tell us in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 11. And get out a piece of paper again and get a pen and let’s draw. Okay, let’s start up at the top with God, okay. And we’ll use a triangle for God. All right, then on the right hand of God put the image of a cross. All right, so when Jesus ascended on high what He did was He gave gifts to men. Now he’s going to tell us about four specific gifts that He gave. You say, “I thought there were five.” We’ll talk about that in just a minute. All right, so what did He give for the equipping of the saints? So I want you to put four circles for the head and put a stick figure on each single one. All right now, **“...when [Jesus] ascended on high...,” (Ephesians 4:8b)** remember He was able to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One that places us in the body of Jesus Christ for a specific purpose. All right, he’s saying here that **“...when [Jesus] ascended on high...and He gave gifts to men,”** these are four specific gifts that He gave to the church that is very important for the equipping of the saints. All right first He gave apostles. (4:11a) So over the first little stick figure, write “apostles.” And then the second stick figure is He gave them prophets. (4:11b) So write “prophets” over that. He gave evangelists. Then it says He gave pastors and teachers.] (PARAPHRASE, 4:11) Now obviously I am lacking one figure here. But the reason I’m lacking it is because the word “and” is “k-a-i” in the Greek and it does not imply that it is another category, but rather it is a two-prong category. So it is pastors, slash (/), teachers and that word for “pastors” in the Greek is really the word for shepherds. They’re not just someone that watches over the flock, but they’re someone that feeds the flock. Now he gave us these four things for the equipping of the saints. (See Ephesians 4:11-12a) So

under these four just draw a whole bunch of heads. Now this is a visual that is going to help you remember Ephesians chapter 4, verse 11 and on. All right, so what does he want to do with these four men? He wants to equip these people for the work of ministry. (4:12b) So on that bottom line just put some feet on these little heads because He has a job for them to do. When they go to church it's not that they're just to sit there and listen and absorb it and do nothing with it, but rather they are to be equipped. And on the right hand side what are they equipped for? **“...the work of service....”**

(Ephesians 4:12b) Or for the work of ministry. You can translate that both ways. This is their job. Their job from God is to equip these people so that they get up and leave the pews and go out into the world to do the service of the kingdom of God, to be salt and light **“...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...,” (Philippians 2:15b)** to step into that world and show people what Christ is like. He also uses these people to bring them **“...to the unity of the faith...,” (Ephesians 4:13b)** to grow them up spiritually. So one of the things that is important as he equips them is that he also teaches them about the faith. He teaches them about what it is to know God, so that knowing God more and more they grow into the stature of the measure of Jesus Christ. The whole goal, the whole purpose of this church working this way and these gifted men is to equip us and to teach us and to bring us to maturity to Christ-likeness so that you and I can be everything that God wants us to be. So what is the apostle? An apostle is a person who is one sent from another with a message. So when I think of apostles we know that there were the twelve apostles that were chosen by Jesus Christ. But we also know from a careful study of the Word of God that others were mentioned as apostles. We know that Paul was the apostle I think in the mind and heart of God that really replaced Judas when Judas betrayed Jesus Christ. But an apostle is one that is sent from another with a message. Some people believe that prophets no longer exist, that they served their function and they're no longer operative for today. Others believe yes, they're

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 38 (#912218)
WEEK 8 (912348)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



operative. If they're operative for today then an apostle was the one that would go and lay the foundation. The apostle is the one that would go to a group of people and give the message of Jesus Christ and establish the church. All right so what did the prophet do? The prophet was the spokesman for God. Remember we didn't have the Bible in those days. If anybody calls himself a prophet today, you don't believe what they say because they call themselves a prophet. You listen to the Word of God because it's the complete prophecy. If they don't measure up they're not a prophet from God. But a prophet was a spokesman. And a prophet spoke to edification and exhortation and comfort. Well what did the evangelists do? The evangelist would come in to equip the church for the work of service. They would teach them how do you communicate with the lost. How do you give out the gospel? And then finally who would be the one that would stay behind? Who would be the one that would continue to shepherd the flock? It would be the pastor/teacher teaching them till they come **"...to the unity of the faith ..., to the measure of the stature..." (Ephesians 4:13)** of a man or woman like Christ. And it's important for you to work properly. Just remember that, you have a mission from God.