“He Gave Gifts To Men”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 31st, 2022

Text: Ephesians 4:8, 11-13

### Intro

1. *Was Church God’s Idea?* by Marc Winter (03/30/2012):
   1. The author set up a Facebook (FB) page, the book is for sale at <https://www.amazon.com/Church-Gods-Idea-Marc-Winter/dp/1619968886/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2KD2IEVXLU4Q7&keywords=Was+Church+God%E2%80%99s+Idea%3F+by+Marc+Winter&qid=1657668153&sprefix=was+church+god+s+idea+by+marc+winter+%2Caps%2C37&sr=8-1>
   2. He says Jesus set up His *“ekklesia” (G1577),* and that translators intentionally mistranslated it as “church” to keep people slaves to the rule of man.
   3. On his FB page dated 02/07/13 he claims Heb. 13:17 about obeying the elders is intentionally mistranslated to keep people “imprisoned in an institutional religious jail.”
   4. He says Mark 10:42-45 shows Jesus taught no man was to “lord over, control or exercise authority over each other as the gentiles do.”
   5. He also took I Peter 5:1-3 to show Peter taught the elders were not to “lord over or control God's people.”
2. Are churches to have elders and deacons, and if so, what are their roles?
   1. Ephesians 4:8, 11-13: Vs. 8 says Jesus “gave gifts to men” then vss. 11-13 describe those “gifts” as positions in the church for equipping the saints and building up the body of Christ!
3. Jesus “gave gifts to men” for the “equipping of the saints!”

#### “He Gave Gifts to Men” *(Ephesians 4:8, 11)*

* 1. **Apostles & Prophets** 
     1. **Apostles**
        1. Acts 1:21-22: One must have been with Christ from His baptism to His resurrection and must have been an eyewitness.
        2. *Acts 9:* Paul (an exception) was handpicked by Christ, and became an eyewitness to His resurrection. (Acts 22:8; I Cor. 15:8)
        3. This position was unique to the 1st century – no longer held by men.
        4. However, the word “Apostle” means ““Messengers, sent ones, or he that is sent.”
        5. In that sense, there can still be apostles, or emissaries sent by a group or a church, such as was the case for Paul and Barnabas being sent out by the church at Antioch (14:14).
     2. **Prophets**
        1. Deut. 18:20-22: A prophet is one who speaks for God by God, and his word must come to pass 100% of the time. Can be trusted.
        2. If a prophet speaks for God and it does not come to pass (even once) he is a false prophet and will be judged by God.
        3. There is no longer any need for direct revelation from God since His word is complete (I Cor. 13:8-10; Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 3).
           1. This rules out apostles, any man, or even an angel from Heaven teaching a new gospel – all will be accursed!
        4. Any prophets today are false prophets, and there have been many! (Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Ellen G. White, Harold Camping, etc.)
     3. These positions are unique to the 1st century and have no use today.
  2. **Evangelists (Preachers)** 
     1. *Euaggelistes (G2099) [yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace’]:* from *2097;* a preacher of the gospel: evangelist.
     2. *Euaggelizo (G2097) [yoo-ang-ghel-id’-zo]:* to announce good news ("evangelize") especially the gospel: declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).
     3. Evangelist(s) only appears three times:
        1. Acts 21:8: Philip the evangelist (*Acts 8:* Preached to the Eunuch).
        2. II Tim. 4:2, 5: Timothy told to work as an evangelist, to preach.
        3. Eph. 4:11: A position given as a “gift to men” from Jesus.
     4. Rom. 10:14: Preachers (Evangelists) are still needed today!
  3. **Pastors (Elders)**
     1. Some teach that the office of a pastor is separate and apart from the eldership. That it is the function of evangelists with leadership abilities.
        1. Many preachers called, “Pastor” among other things (“Reverend”)
     2. *Poimen (G4166) [poy-mane']:* a shepherd (literally or figuratively): shepherd, pastor.
     3. Who was given the job of shepherd? Elders? Or Preachers?
        1. Acts 20:28: The elders of the church at Ephesus were gathered (20:17) and were told the Holy Spirit made them “overseers” to shepherd the flock (the church).
           1. Overseer: *episkopos (G1985):* a superintendent; bishop, elder
        2. I Pet. 5:1-3: Peter, as a “fellow elder,” exhorted elders to shepherd the flock, “exercising oversight” in a way “not lording it over” their charge.
           1. Oversight: *episkopeō (G1983):* to oversee; by implication to beware: look diligently, take the oversight.
     4. Shepherd: *Poimaino (G4165) [poy-mah'ee-no]:* from 4166; to tend as a shepherd of (figuratively, supervisor): feed (cattle), rule, shepherding (verb).
     5. Elders are pastors, and their job is to have oversight and to “shepherd the flock of God!” (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2)
     6. Elders are appointed by God and given as “gifts to men” by Christ, so are to be submitted to, but even they must “exercise oversight” so as to not lord it over anyone, for in so doing they sin!
     7. Heb. 13:17; I Tim. 5:17: It is right to submit to them for they have the “rule” over the church of God, as long as they do not abuse their position!
     8. Elders (Pastors) are still needed today!
  4. **Teachers**
     1. “Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” (Mt. 28:18-20)
        1. Need to teach after one is converted.
     2. I Tim. 3:2: Elders need to be able to teach.
     3. I Tim. 4:11; II Tim. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14: Need to mature to be able to teach others.
     4. The need for teachers today is still great!
  5. Christ appointed these positions and gave them their responsibilities so that unity may be attained! *(Eph. 4:13)*

## Conclusion

1. Christ “gave gifts to men” – The purpose:
   1. Ephesians 4:12-13: The purpose for the gifts is “for the equipping of the saints.”
      1. II Tim. 3:16: The word of God contains everything to equip the saints.
   2. Attaining to the unity of the Spirit is the result.
      1. I Cor. 1:10: Unity is achieved when we are made complete and are one mind in Christ. *(Is there unity in denominationalism?)*
2. Unity doesn’t just happen, it is worked for!
   1. Jesus did His part: He descended & ascended (Eph. 4:8-10), and left positions for men to fill that equip the saints for attaining unity (Eph. 4:8, 11-13).
   2. Are we doing our part?
   3. Elders, deacons, preachers, and members are to work together “for the equipping of the saints” so that we may “all attain to the unity of the faith!”
3. Whether we have elders or not, when we all work together in the full capacity of the abilities we have been given, we will cause “growth of the body for the building up of itself in love!” (Ephesians 4:16)
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized!
5. If a Christian, are you growing and maturing? Repent & be renewed.
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!