

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.<sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

<sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. <sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

**Both are part of the same body, and both** enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this **Good News**.

## THE GOSPEL IS LIVED OUT THROUGH A LOVING AND UNIFYING INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

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<sup>7</sup> However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. <sup>8</sup> That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives" and gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup> Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world.

<sup>10</sup> And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

## UNIFICATION IS NOT UNIFORMITY; GOD DISTINCTLY ENABLES EACH OF US FOR MINISTRY

111

Psalm 68

## <sup>18</sup> When you ascended to the heights, you led a crowd of captives. You received gifts from the people..

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Eph 4

<sup>8</sup>..."When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives" and gave gifts to his people."

## <sup>10</sup> ...the church is to display [God's] wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

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Psalm 68

## <sup>20</sup> Our God is a God who saves! The Sovereign Lord rescues us from death.

## <sup>21</sup> But God will [crush] the heads of his enemies,....

#### **Genesis 3**

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

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# <sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

### **APOSTLE – initiates church planting and oversees it**

**EVANGELIST – enabled to effectively share the Gospel** 

# **EVANGELIST** – enabled to effectively share the Gospel **PASTOR** – [shepherd] guides spiritual growth of church

EVANGELIST – enabled to effectively share the Gospel PASTOR – [shepherd] guides spiritual growth of church TEACHER – explains the Scriptures and helps apply them

<sup>2</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. <sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

<sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.



