



-- God gives us _____ (v. 7-8).

- Everyone who believes is given equipping, empowering grace from God.
- Every power and gifting we possess to please God and serve Him are not from ourselves, but His gift to us.
- Wrapped up in the resurrection and the ascension of Christ is His plan to and power to bless us with gifts of His grace (v. 8).

-- God gives us grace so that we will exalt His _____ (v. 9-10).

- Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11
- The gifts Christ gives are for humble, hard-working, sacrificial service—the service for which Christ descended.

-- God gives us grace so that we will exalt His Son through obedient _____ (v. 11-12a).

- God gives us this grace for a specific purpose—so that we will apply that grace in service to Him.
- We are not saved for self. We are saved to serve.
- Now is the time for diligent, strenuous labor for the glory of God (Ephesians 2:10, John 9:4).

-- God gives us grace so that we will exalt His Son through obedient service done _____.

- God is most glorified in our service when we serve Him together with unified hearts.
- Unity is so very difficult because, by God's design, we are so very different.

- Each of us has been created different and given different gifts because God delights to bring unity out of diversity.
- The purpose of our diversity is _____.

Five Characteristics of Ministry That Gives Glory to God

1.) We work together in the context of the _____ (v. 11-12a).

- The chief responsibility of pastor/teachers in the church is to be used of God to equip His people to serve Him.
- God's clear desire is that His people serve Him as part of the church, and not in isolation from it.

2.) We work together to _____ the church (v. 12b).

- The passion of every member of the body ought to be the health of the whole (1 Corinthians 14:12, Colossians 1:24).
- Service that does not ultimately build up the church is service that does not ultimately please God.

3.) We work together to _____ the church (v. 13a).

- 1 Cor. 1:10, John 17:22
- The glory for which Christ died is impossible among us without the pursuit of unity among us.

4.) We work together to proclaim _____ (v. 13b).

- Service that gives glory to God makes Jesus Christ known (1 Corinthians 2:2, Colossians 3:11).
- At its very core, the church is and must be a community in and for which Jesus Christ is everything.

5.) We work together to _____ the church (v. 13c).

- Service that glorifies God helps each member grow in the likeness Christ (v. 17-32).
- Thus the purpose of our ministry is _____.

The Blessings of Working Together as One Body

1.) We stand strong in the _____ (v. 14).

- Like infants, immature Christians are vulnerable.
- The purpose of maturity is _____.

2.) We _____ in Christ (v. 15-16).

- As we work together in the service that brings glory to God, we will become more and more like our Head, Jesus Christ.
- As we work together in the service that brings glory to God, we will increasingly love one another.

Application

-- v. 16 – This passage ends with a critical key to these blessings: Each part must do its work.

-- We will never grow in Christ without significant involvement in _____.