

## Gifts Tell Us Something

---

by Wayne Goff

You can tell a lot about a person based on the gifts he or she receives for a birthday or holiday. For example, if people gave me things I like or need, then you might find a Bible or religious books, a new tie, golfing equipment, or sports gear supporting my favorite sports teams. Now if you gave those same things to my wife, she would only appreciate the Bible and religious books!

Likewise, you can tell much about the church and its mission based on the “gifts” Christ gave it when He ascended back into heaven. Ephesians 4:8 says “... *When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.*” And what were those gifts? Verse 11 continues, “*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.*” Now look at the list of gifts and tell me what they all have in common: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. It is obvious that all of these “*gifts*” do the same thing — teach God’s Word to men! You do not see one thing about recreation or entertainment — yet some men have perverted the church’s mission to entertain. You do not see one thing about secular education, yet some churches today have day care centers, secular schools, and even colleges and universities. So I think you get the point.

What **is** the **work** and **mission** of the church? Just let Jesus tell you by the gifts He gave to men. One of those men, the apostle Paul, said that these gifts would accomplish the following: equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until all believers come to the unity of the Faith (vv. 12-13).

You do not read about any of the Lord’s local churches being engaged in the many “social gospel” activities churches burden themselves with today. So when did it all change? When men took upon themselves the privilege of changing the Lord’s church and its mission into something man enjoyed more.

Dear reader, there are still some churches out there that still maintain the mission of Christ’s church. Why not investigate our congregation and see if it isn’t true today?

304201