

INTRODUCTION

I told I would be announcing who was the greatest member of Green Acres Baptist Church. Actually, I won't be giving that person's name, but you will be able to figure it out from this message.

There were three restaurants on one block. One restaurant boasted, "The Greatest Restaurant in the County!" the next restaurant had a big sign saying, "The Greatest Restaurant in the State" and the third had a smaller, much more modest sign that said, "The Greatest Restaurant on this Block." For sure the greatest member of the church is not the one who claims to be the greatest! Once you think about it, the church has never been proud of the fact that the church was full with intellectual people. In fact, the church has usually attracted people who were, perhaps, a little below the average intelligence of college educated and the upper strata of those out in our society. The Bible says that's no accident. 1 Corinthians 1:26 says, "Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth." The church opens its arms to people who may not be the smartest, who may not be the most noble, who may not be the most influential. In fact, sometimes we are just a little bit dull.

You probably heard a little while back that Emmett over here was reading in the newspaper and saw an advertisement for an all-expense paid cruise for fifty dollars and it was sailing out of Galveston, Texas. Emmett loaded up and went down there. He couldn't believe it, an all-expense paid cruise for fifty dollars! He went into this dingy office near the docks at Galveston and he said, "Is this true, a fifty dollar cruise?" The guy said, "That's right!" Emmett put down his fifty dollars. The next thing he knew, the guy picked up a baseball bat and hit him across the head and knocked him out. When he woke up, he was floating in an inner tube at the end of the dock and there floating next to him was Tom Lawson. Emmett looked at Tom and said, "I wonder if they serve food on this cruise?" Tom said, "They didn't last year."

The truth is throughout the history of the church, it has been known as a body that attracted all different kinds of people. You didn't have to have a certain kind of IQ; you didn't have to have a certain bank account; you didn't have to have a certain social standing. The church has always been, "Whosoever will may come." For that reason the church is made up of all different kinds of people and some are more prominent by the world's standards than others. This passage of scripture is going to talk about who are the greatest members in the church. In 1 Corinthians 12, the apostle Paul has been comparing the church the body of Christ to a literal human body.

1 Corinthians 12:21-31. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then

workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.”

I. GOD HAS GIVEN HONOR TO THE WEAKER MEMBERS

Now that is a very strong verb there “intensely seek the greater gifts.” So, let’s talk about the greatest members of the body and the greater gifts he talks about here. First of all there are three things the Bible says God has done in this passage of scripture. Number one, God has given honor to the weaker members. That’s what we just read about over there in verse 24. “God combined the members and has given greater honor to the parts that lack it.” Who would we consider to be the weaker members of the body, the less honorable members of the body? He even compares it to parts of the human body we don’t usually present. Verse 23 says, “and the parts of the body that are unrepresentable we treat with special honor.” You are all probably smart enough to follow this track. I don’t have to explain it and get into detail, because it could actually get a little embarrassing in a mixed audience, but there are certain parts of your body that you just don’t go around showing off publicly. We call those “our private parts.” We treat those with special modesty. We cover them up. Paul is actually saying here there are actually parts of the body of Christ that publicly don’t seem to be very presentable. The church may not necessarily be proud enough of those parts display them to the world. So what do we do with those weaker members? What do we do with those less honorable members? What do we do with those that seem to be less noble less intelligent less socially acceptable? What do we do with them? The church is the only organization on earth that gives special honor to those people.

The Bible says the greatest member of Green Acres Baptist Church is not the Pastor. The greatest member of our church is not the staff. I think the greatest member of our church is in one sense, those mentally challenged children who come to Sunday School and sing, “Jesus Loves Me,” and we teach them and we surround them with love. They are members of the body. They may not be presentable to the public. They may not be representatives of our church that we would send on a mission trip somewhere or if somebody says, “We want somebody from Green Acres Baptist Church to come say a prayer at a public event.” We probably would not send one of them. They are less honorable to us but God says, “They are the greatest members of your body. You treat them with special honor special respect!” God has given them greater honor. He says there are parts of the body you see openly what they are doing. In fact, what they are doing may be covered up, but that does not mean they are less important. I believe with all my heart those individuals working in the nursery tonight keeping those children are more honorable than the person standing up here preaching.

I happen to believe the Bible teaches that our maintenance superintendent who makes sure all the air conditioners are running and all the buildings are taken care is more honorable than our worship leader. Do you know why? Because what we are doing is so open—we are presentable. We are like your arm your hand that you don’t cover up. It’s just seen all the time. But there are less honorable parts of the body and the Bible says they are the greatest members.

The church attracts all different kinds of people, I have to be honest with you. Every church I

have ever been in has had people that are just slightly crazy. How do we treat people like that? "Oh, I wish they weren't in our church" Absolutely not! It is the nature of the church to accept people like that and to love and embrace them. I have a great theory about the church: The brighter the light is, the more bugs that are going to be attracted! I pray to God that Green Acres Baptist Church will be such a bright light that all kinds of people will be attracted to the light and some of them are going to be by the world's standards less honorable. We don't say, "Sorry, we don't want you." NO. we love them and surround them and we accept them. That is the nature of the church.

1. Living cooperation

Why do we do that? The Bible says there are three reasons. Number one is living cooperation. Look at verse 27, "You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." What this is saying is, "Whether or not you know it, you need those less honorable members. I need those seemingly less honorable members." Why? Because they are a part of the body! I have used these analogies before as we have been talking about the body. You may think your little toe is probably not very necessary. You don't think about it until you stub it on the bedpost in the middle of the night. I had somebody actually tell me, "You know my little toe got infected and I had to have my little toe amputated. First of all I thought, 'No big deal!' But they said because my little toe got cut off, it changed the way I walked and it changed my balance and it cause me to have severe back problems and led to surgery. You think, "That little toe is not very important." Your whole body needs that little toe just like the whole body of Christ needs every single member of the body. Understand that so that there can be living cooperation together. That's why the eye can't say, "I don't need the hand." That's why the head can't say "I don't need the foot." We all need each other.

2. Loyal consideration

There's another reason he gives here. Number two, so that there will be loyal consideration of each other. Look at verse 24, "God has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other." The body of Christ is wonderfully diverse. You're not like me I'm not like you. We are all different. That's what this whole teaching about gifts is about. I don't have the same gifts you have. You don't have the same gifts I have. I would venture to say there are probably no two members of Green Acres Baptist Church who have the same gift mix. You generally have one or more spiritual gifts. When you consider eighteen spiritual gifts, there is a multiplicity of combinations there. So there is nobody exactly like you in our church. There is nobody exactly like me. That's why we ought to all care for each other and work together be concerned for each other. This diversity can lead to two things. When there is such diversity and we are all so different, like different kinds of music, like different kinds of clothing styles, and like different kinds of hair styles. When we compete against each other, when your attitude and your mindset competes against my attitude and my mindset, that leads to disharmony. But when we don't compete with each other, when we care for each other, when we consider each other more highly than ourselves as it says in Philippians 2:1, that's when there is unity and harmony. The choice is yours, but God said, "I have made all different kinds of members I gave honor to the weaker members so that you could care for one another," so that there could be loving celebration

together. That's exactly what he is talking about.

Look what he says in the last part of verse 26. "If one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." You know how you can tell if you are right with God? You are right with God when you hear somebody stand up here and sing and you can listen and say, "Praise the Lord that God has given her the gift of encouragement to use it in her music. I'm so happy! I rejoice with her rejoicing." But if you are sitting out there thinking, "I don't ever get to sing a solo." or "I think I can sing better than she can!" Or you may be sitting out there saying, "I can preach better than Brother David can!" You probably can! But if you are sitting out there jealous of the gifts God has given me or anybody else, you're not in the right fellowship with God. The Bible says, "You need to rejoice with those that are honored and that's a sign that you are working together in the body." So who's the greatest member of Green Acres Baptist Church? Those who are seemingly the weakest, the less honorable to the world. The greatest members of Green Acres Baptist Church will never be elected to Who's Who in American High Schools and Colleges. They'll never get the awards in the business world and in the academic world. They won't get any of that recognition, but in the eyes of God and in the church they are the special, wonderful members of our church. Let's be a church that welcomes all kinds of people, because in God's eyes He's given those people special honor.

II. GOD HAS APPOINTED GIFTED MEMBERS OF THE BODY

The second thing God does in this passage of scripture is appoint gifted members of the body. In other words, He has given spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10. "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

We've already talked about all of those gifts and when we get to chapter 14, we will be talking much more about prophecy and speaking in tongues, because that's what chapter 14 is all about. Now I want us to go back to verse 28, because Paul again begins to list some spiritual gifts. In this listing, there are several he has already talked about early in the chapter that we have already discussed so we want to look through here and pick out the four we have not already talked about, and this is very clearly a ranking order: "And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."

1. Apostles

Let's talk about the four gifts we have not yet discussed. First there is the gift of being an apostle, the apostolic gift. A one-phrase definition of the gift of being an apostle is "those who are sent." The Greek word *apostellein*, means "to send off." We get our word *apostle* from it. When Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so send I you." That word "send" is the word

apostellein. The gift of being an Apostle had a proper position in the early church and you could use Apostle with a capital "A." There were twelve Apostles with a capital "A." That was a position in the early church. The Bible says in Revelation 21:14 when we get up to heaven and we see the new Jerusalem, it says, "The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb." We know Simon Peter's name will be there, John's name will be there and Andrew's name will be there...and on down the list.

Have you ever wondered why in Acts 1:21, after Judas committed suicide, the Apostles were so anxious to elect another Apostle? It was because they were incomplete. They didn't have twelve. So they cast lots. Can anybody name the twelfth Apostle elected by the Disciples? Matthias. And we never see his name again in the entire New Testament. In Galatians 1:1, guess who claimed to be the Apostle on the same standing as the other eleven? Paul. We don't know for sure, but when we get to heaven, you walk with me up to those foundations, let's see if we will find the name of Matthias or Paul. We'll just have to wait. But there were twelve and only twelve Apostles.

But there is a gift of a spiritual apostleship, (small "a") because in the New Testament Barnabas is called an apostle and Silas and Paul are called apostles. The apostolic gift is the missionary gift. Those gifted with this should go and be missionaries. Apostles are especially gifted individuals. I appreciate the fact that you are already praying for me as on the 16th, I will go to Malawi, Africa and the sixteen missionary families in Malawi will come to the shores of Lake Malawi. I have discovered missionaries from other African countries will be there and I will be preaching to them and teaching them and encouraging them. These people are my spiritual heroes. They left their homes and their cultures to go and learn another language. That is a special gift from God. It is a special calling and it is a special gift. There are some people whom I have known who said they were called to missions, they were commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board and went to the mission field and were absolutely miserable and in about two years they came back. Do you know what they realized? They probably felt called, but they were not gifted with the gift of being a missionary. It takes certain gifted people. Maybe some of you are saying, "You know I feel a little guilty because I am not a missionary." If you are not called and gifted to be a missionary, don't you dare go! You will be messing up big time. You will be ruining the body of Christ and your own life.

2. Teachers

The second gift Paul talks about those who are teachers. How do you describe someone who has the gift of teaching? Those who instruct from the word. Sometimes people say, "Well, Pastor. If I am not gifted to teach, then I shouldn't be teaching!" Well, do you remember a few weeks ago we talked about many of the gifts are general commands also? For instance, we are going to learn there is a gift of giving, but if you don't have the gift of giving, that doesn't mean you are *excused* from giving; you give anyway, but some people just have a special gift of giving. There is a gift of faith, and just because you may not have that special gift of faith doesn't mean that you shouldn't exercise faith. I believe the same is true of teaching. Jesus said, "Go you therefore and teach all nations." That's a general command, but there are certain people in the body who have been specially gifted to teach and we need to make sure those people are placed in positions where they can teach.

What does gifted teaching involve? It always involves preparation, presentation and application. By the way, if you are a teacher, you need to know that. What is the difference between teaching the word and prophecy or inspired preaching? You'll discover the more you hear me that really I am much more of a pastor-teacher, because I study; I prepare; I take the word and I expound the word but there are times, especially on mission trips that I preach. Some of you have never heard me preach. Those who have been with me to Russia and other places have heard me preach. When I preach I often get up and I may not even open a Bible. I may not even take a text. I may not even have a total general idea...well, I will never use an outline; I'll just have a general idea, a general theme and I'll get up and I'll quote a lot of scripture and it's basically an appeal to people to respond to the commands of Jesus Christ. It's almost scary, because you pretty much have to trust the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and that's what prophecy is inspired preaching.

Now a teacher doesn't do that. If you are teaching in a Sunday School class, and you are just going in there and winging it to get out in a hurry, you are not doing God credit. The Bible says, "Study to show yourself approved." A teacher prepares: Study, study, study; and presents the word. That means shares the word. They don't teach philosophy; they don't teach current events—they teach the word. Some people say, "I don't like teaching a Sunday School Quarterly." Never teach the Sunday School Quarterly! Do you know what the quarterly is? It's a commentary on the Bible. You teach the Bible! You may use the text the Sunday School Quarterly suggests and it's always based on scripture, but never teach a quarterly—teach the word.

I hesitate to tell this story, because it is one of the worst memories of my life. I have only had to fire one Sunday School teacher in my tenure as a pastor, and believe me it's no fun. In one of the churches where I served, there was a man who had been a teacher for a long time and basically got in there and talked a little bit. They might get around to opening the Quarterly and talking a little bit about the lesson. One Sunday, one of the guys in the church who had gotten on fire for the Lord and owned a building supply company, invited one of his suppliers to come to Sunday School with him. His supplier friend happened to be Jewish. He was not active in Judaism, but he had a Jewish family background. My friend brought this guy to the class where this teacher was teaching. They started talking about what was happening in Israel and the Jews at that time. Please excuse my profanity but I want to say exactly what that Sunday School teacher said in the presence of this Jewish guest. He said, "Hitler knew what to do with all those damn Jews—kill every one of them!" When I heard that, I said, "That man is not teaching the word! I don't know what he is teaching, but he is not teaching the word!" So, it was not a pleasant experience, but he was removed from his position. If you are in a Sunday School class and the Word is not is being taught, you come tell me. We need to know. Every teacher in our church needs to teach the Word, not current events, not philosophy, not theology, but the Word. And God will bless our church if in every at least adult class we could have someone who is gifted by the Holy Spirit as a teacher. When you sit under somebody who is gifted to teach, you know it! You don't have to say, "Do they have the gift of teaching?" You know it, because people go out of there changed and transformed. So, God gives that gift and it is a very, very important gift.

There are three lists of gifts remember? By the way toward the end of this series I am going to be giving you all eighteen different gifts that are mentioned in the Bible. There may be more

spiritual gifts, but I will give you all eighteen that are mentioned. We will be categorizing them according to support gifts, service gifts and sign gifts. Of the three lists given in Ephesians 4; Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, the one gift that appears in all three places is the gift of teaching.

3. Service

Number three (I love this gift!) is the gift of service, those who serve behind the scenes. Do you know what that word means in verse 28 when it says, “those who are able to help others”? It’s a very graphic Greek word meaning “to take a burden off someone else and carry it.” One of my favorite members of our church is Roy Hood, because Roy has the gift of help. When we went to Nuevo Laredo and we were working at Corninea Baptist Church, I was preaching but Roy was installing ceiling fans in that church you gave the money to build. I don’t think I could have put in those ceiling fans. I’m just not that good at that kind of stuff. I don’t know if Roy could have preached. He probably could have done a better job preaching than I could of putting up those ceiling fans. But we were working together. Now, who was doing the more important work: me preaching or Roy putting in those ceiling fans? In God’s estimation what I was doing was no more important than what he was doing. I believe there are multitudes in our church that possess the gift of service, the gift of help. It’s the same one. It’s the gift of just helping people who are in trouble. It may mean taking a cake to a family who is struggling. It may mean washing the car of a widow in the church or changing her oil or raking her leaves. It’s doing a good deed in the name of Jesus Christ and there are some people who are just supernaturally gifted to do that. When problems arise in the church—and by the way this was the basic problem in the church at Corinth, they were so obsessed with the gift of tongues that they were neglecting the gift of preaching and the gift of service and the gift of help. The gift of service is behind the scenes. You never see it. But I believe at the Judgement seat of Christ, those who practice the gift of service will be the recipients of the greatest reward. So, if you have the gift of service, it’s every bit as important as preaching and teaching, I believe.

4. Administrators

The next gift he mentions in verse 28 is the gift of administration, or those who are administrators, because it can either be a gift or a position. Administrators are those who organize for effectiveness. A church has to be organized in order to function. That’s why we have Sunday School classes; that’s why we have committees. I heard a preacher talking to a group of people about how they needed to organize their Sunday School. One old preacher stood up and said, “Brother, we don’t need more organizing we need more agonizing!” That sounded pretty good, but the preacher responded by saying, “Brother, you try to organize your church and you will have all the agony you can stand!” I want to remind you God is not the author of confusion. God loves order and structure and effectiveness. The difference between efficiency and effectiveness is there is efficiency in the business organizations in the world and sometimes people in the business world look at the church and say, “You folks are not efficient!” We ought to be more concerned about being *effective* than being efficient. Being efficient is doing things right. Anybody can do that, but being effective is doing the right things. A church can be as smooth as silk in efficiency; machinery-oiled, everything working on paper, committees and Sunday School classes and that church can be totally ineffective! But an effective church is

reaching people for Jesus Christ and developing them into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. For those that think our church needs to be more efficient, every growing, thriving church I know of in America lives on the edge of chaos: Always trying to catch up. There are so many things going on and so many challenges. You always need more money and always need more space. I thank God I am a part of a church which is more interested in effectiveness than efficiency and I thank God he has gifted certain people to organize us for effectiveness within the body. That may be your gift. You may be an organizer. If it is, use that gift in the body! I have found those people serve best on church committees. They like that. They like getting in there and talking about different options and this is how this can work. Other people who have the gift of mercy or the gift of encouragement or the gift of teaching look at that and say, "Ooooh! I don't want to do that. That just is boring to me!" God has gifted people differently and that's the whole point we are talking about.

III. GOD HAS DIRECTED THE USE OF GIFTS

The third thing is God directs the use of gifts. He is the one who gives the gifts and he is the one who qualifies those for the gifts and he is the one who gives as he determines. Look at verse 11. "All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." It's not up to you to determine which gift you would like to have. It's up to God to determine to give you the gift he desires for you.

1. No Christian has all the gifts

Notice three concluding statements about spiritual gifts. No Christian has all the gifts. I was in Louisville, Kentucky, in seminary, I will never forget some tent evangelist came through town and he had a half-page ad in the Louisville Courier Times that read, "Brother So and So possessing all eighteen gifts of the Holy Spirit!" That was the way he presented himself. The only thing wrong with that is that it's wrong. The Bible doesn't teach that. If that were true, he would be a church in and of himself. He wouldn't need anybody else and that's the point of this whole chapter. Paul is saying, "We all need each other." Nobody has all the gifts. That's why I need you and you need me!

2. No gift is possessed by every Christian

Number two is very important: No gift is possessed by every Christian. There is not one spiritual gift every Christian has. I say that, because there are those friends of mine who love Jesus sincerely with all their hearts who are called Pentecostals who say, "Hello. I believe in spiritual gifts, but I believe every Christian ought to speak in tongues. Every Christian ought to have the gift of tongues." When somebody tells you that, I want you to know without a shadow of a doubt that they have gone beyond the teaching of the New Testament. When we talk about the gift of tongues in chapter 14, I'm going to tell you why I believe there is a gift of tongues. It is misused, misunderstood and not practiced correctly much of the time but for people to say every Christian has the gift of tongues, they are violating the clear teaching of scripture. Look at verse 29. Paul asks a series of questions. "Are all apostles?" You say, "Well, now wait a minute, he's just asking the question. Why doesn't he give the answer?" This is why you send us to seminary, so we can learn Greek, because in the Greek grammar when a question is asked where a yes or no

answer is presupposed, there is a different particle used, anticipating "No," as opposed to anticipating "Yes." In other words in verse 29 Paul uses the little particle *ma*. In English and anytime the word *ma* was used with a question, it was always, always anticipated the answer was "No." Now for the questions in the Greek grammar, where the answer was anticipated to be "Yes," there was a totally different particle *ou*. And if these questions had that little "ou" particle at the beginning, we knew the answer was "Yes." So we know without a shadow of a doubt the answer to all of these questions is "No." It ought to be read like this: "All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All don't work miracles, do they? All do not have the gift of healing, do they?" And here it is: "All do not speak in tongues, do they?" The answer is absolutely not. Do all interpret? NO. There is not one spiritual gift that is possessed by every single Christian.

3. Churches should seek the greater gifts

Look at point number three. Churches should seek the greater gifts. Because verse 31 is spoken in the plural it is not in the singular. Do you know how we would translate verse 31 in the East Texas vernacular? "Y'all desire the greater gifts." It's not saying you *individually* desire the greater gifts, "Y'all desire the greater gifts." Here's the church and of course in New Testament times churches were starting all the time. They were just struggling little bodies of people. What if you had twenty people in the church and there was nobody in the church who had the gift of teaching or no one in the church had the gift of preaching or nobody in the church had the gift of mercy or service or help? You had all twenty of them speaking in tongues, all twenty of them trying to do miracles. That's going to be utter, absolute chaos. So Paul said, "As a church you need to seek these better gifts." All the gifts are not equal. We do know the relative comparison of tongues and preaching shows us that preaching is much more important than speaking in tongues. Paul devotes a whole chapter to that. We believe from the list he gave us, a few verses before that a missionary gift, the preaching gift, the teaching gift, the serving gift, all those gifts are more important than some of the sensational gifts like speaking in tongues. Not all gifts are equal. All are equally important, but not all are equal in their effectiveness in the body. So, we need to all seek that our body would have the greater gifts.

The whole point Paul is trying to make here is it's not the same thing to be gifted as it is to be godly. After all of this discussion about spiritual gifts in chapter 13, Paul says, "And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains." Do you recognize all of those spiritual gifts now? Maybe you have read that chapter many times and you didn't know it related to spiritual gifts "but if I have not love, I am nothing." Not every Christian possesses all the spiritual gifts, but every Christian should exhibit all the fruits of the Spirit, not all the *gifts* but all the *fruits* of the Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are: Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith and self control. Sometimes people get those two confused, saying, "I think I have the gift of teaching, the gift of mercy, and the gift of giving." They kind of pick and choose. Sometimes they do the same thing with the fruit too. They'll say, "I don't think I have Love. I don't think I have Peace." NO. We are to exhibit all of the fruits but you won't possess all of the gifts of the Spirit. The body of Christ needs each other.

CONCLUSION

It’s an awesome experience to go to Jerusalem and to visit the Yad Vashem Museum of the Holocaust. Do you remember what Adolph Hitler said about people he considered weak and genetically inferior? “I’m going to be doing the human race a favor by wiping them out!” He decided to put to death as many Jews as he could. He killed six million of them. The sad thing is that he did it in the name of Christianity. How misguided! The attitude of the church is totally opposite of Adolph Hitler. Those we may consider inferior by worldly standards are NOT to be excluded; they are not to be shut out. They are to be received with open arms, because that is what the body of Jesus is all about!

OUTLINE

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1. Living cooperation
2. Loyal consideration

II. GOD HAS APPOINTED GIFTED MEMBERS OF THE BODY

1. Apostles
2. Teachers
3. Service
4. Administrators

III. GOD HAS DIRECTED THE USE OF GIFTS

1. No Christian has all the gifts
2. No gift is possessed by every Christian
3. Churches should seek the greater gifts



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For the Joy...
Pastor David Dykes