

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XIV

Galatians 3:1-9

Introduction: The capricious Bible-deniers of the world consider we born again believers as nebbish and treat what we say about Biblical morality with a pejorative slant. However, the more we peruse the Scriptures of God's laudable description of Christ's body, the more discernable it is of how inconceivably far-removed the organized church is from God's ideal. It is incumbent upon us who know the unassailable truth to set the record straight and lucidly share what the Bible says about the important matters of life. When the church functions as the paragon example that it should, amazing things can be accomplished for the glory of God. We have the unmitigated potential within us to take the world for Christ. Since the time is late and Jesus is about to return to receive the church unto Himself, we must tenaciously hasten the pace and intensify our efforts to win our generation to Christ.

I. God's magnificent idea

- A. The function of the members. *First*, God has endowed to every individual in the body natural talents and abilities that are to be used for His glory. In order for the body to be a salubrious, growing, functioning body, each member has his or her responsibility to contribute to the edification of the whole. *Matthew 25:14-30*. *Secondly*, in addition to natural gifts and abilities, God also has given spiritual gifts that are to be heterogeneously operating in the house of the Lord.
 1. The gifts of the Spirit. Since they are gifts of the *Spirit*, it means that *all* of the gifts of the Spirit are in *you* for potential use if you are filled with the Spirit. *1st Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:3-8*.
 - a. The word of wisdom – insight beyond man's knowledge.
 - b. The word of knowledge – information that exists, but you don't know of it.
 - c. Faith – this is beyond normal faith to believe the Word of God.
 - d. Gifts of healing (plural).
 - e. Working of miracles – instant results.
 - f. Prophecy - edification, exhortation, and comfort (build up, urge earnestly).
 - g. Discerning of spirits.
 - h. Unlearned tongues.
 - i. The interpretation of tongues.
 2. These ministries represent an expression of Christ in you. *1st Peter 4:10-11*. *Colossians 1:19 & 2:9* tells us that Jesus was the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He manifested in life's expression every gift, grace, and ministry that would eventually function in the church (His body). As such, He was the pattern for all ministry. We become attached to the Head through the new birth. Then, when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we become partakers of the fullness that is in Him. *John 1:16* says, "*And of His fullness we have all received, grace for grace.*" Paul says in *Ephesians 4:7*, "*But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*"
- B. God expects us to operate in the calling that he has given to us. We will be judged according to our faithfulness to that calling. *Romans 12:1-8*.
 1. The ministries that God has placed in the church, when functioning together, make up or complete the fullness of Christ.
 2. When Christ ascended, He allowed His fullness to be distributed to the individual members of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit. This means that every member of the body of Christ has resident within him a measure of God's ability. *Ephesians 4:8*. That makes *John 14:12* possible.
 3. In *1st Corinthians 10:17*, Jesus indicated that even though we are many, we are to be one.

Conclusion: The more I think about what we can do together for God, the more excited I get. The world has yet to see what God can do through totally yielded vessels. Why not us? Why not now? We can make a difference if we stand together. *Matthew 24:14* says, "*And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.*"