

UNITED – Part 5

Scott Lanigan

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TEXT

Ephesians 4:11-13

TALK ABOUT IT

1. How do people stay united when they have different interests or favourites?
2. Because, in His power, God hands us gifts, what do we learn about God?
3. How might you think of Church as a powerful posture of gifts instead of a place?

LOOK TO THE WORD

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

- These called and gifted leaders in the Church existed to equip and empower.
 - Who are some examples, from Scripture, of each? (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher)
 - Why does this diverse list exist? Why did God not simply make “gifted” leaders who could do a little bit of everything?
- What happened in the early Church when they were equipped and built up?
- How does that contribute to unity?

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

- With Acts 1:8 and 1 Peter 4:10 we are given power and gifts to serve.
 - What is the connection between power and serving?
- How did the early church rely on these “gifts” for their lives and their expansion?

LOOK INWARD

Scott said, "God gives gifts: His Love, Life, Jesus, Relationship, Forgiveness. They come freely to you and to me."

- What is your favourite gift from God?
- How are you inspired to live because God gives these gifts?

"You might not feel powerful, or gifted, but if you've trusted Jesus, the same power that raised him from the dead is the power inside of you to serve."

- Why might someone feel "not powerful"?
- How can God give you power in your gifts?
- Why is it important to use your gifts in community?

Which of Scott's final 3 points will be your "takeaway" this week?

- 1) Discover your gifts
- 2) Be Known
- 3) Look for an opportunity

LOOK OUTWARD

The more I see God shaping you, the more God shapes me.

- When was a time you saw someone being shaped by God?
 - How did it impact you?
- Because we measure in life change, how have you experienced life change in community?

Scott said, "If you want to serve God's purpose serve God's people."

- How do you discover ways to serve God's people?
- How have you been uniquely gifted to serve God's people?
- "Church is a posture you hold": if we are empowered to serve, what should we expect from the Church?

SO WHAT...

God puts us into a place, not so we can think more highly of ourselves rather, to expand our capacity to serve others.

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Join us on Fridays at 6am and Sundays at 8:45am as we gather to pray