

New Purpose

God gave His people special gifts that clearly define a purpose in their life for the continued work of Jesus while in this life.

If you are a regenerated person of faith in Christ Jesus then you have been gifted by the Spirit.

These gifts are unique in their nature – they are empowered by the Holy Spirit as directed by God, the Father.

Ephesians 2:10ⁱ

*“¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk **[live]** in **[within]** them.”*

Philippians 2:12b-13

“... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

The Overriding Purpose of Every Believer - UNITY

These gifts are to **unify** God’s people and **produce Spiritual fruit** by encouraging one another toward spiritual growth serving others.

Ephesians 4:16b

*“... when each part is working properly, [the body of Christ – the people of God] makes the body grow **so that it builds itself up in love.***

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

*¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, **so it is with Christ.** ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves^[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

“Sameness” demonstrated by the TRINITY

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

*“⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but **the same Spirit** (The Holy Spirit is the source of the gift); ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but **the same Lord** (Jesus is the model for our service); ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is **the same God** who empowers [all the activities] in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good [so that all brothers and sisters in Christ may profit from loving service].”*

Equal Share of HONOR

God has structured balance in the gift distribution of His Body of believers.

Like the weight distribution of a stone wall.

(Image of cut stone wall.)

1 Corinthians 12:24b-26

“But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

LOVE is the Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 12:29-31

*“²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. **And I will show you a still more excellent way.**”*

As you are probably aware the next chapter is the unveiling of the “more excellent way”, love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 ¹³ *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.***

A great description of love is found in Romans 12.

Romans 12:3-8

⁹ *Let love be genuine.*

- ✓ *Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*
- ✓ ¹⁰ *Love one another with brotherly [familial] affection.*
 - *Outdo one another in showing honor.*
- ✓ ¹¹ *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.*
- ✓ ¹² *Rejoice in hope,*
- ✓ *be patient in tribulation,*
- ✓ *be constant in prayer.*
- ✓ ¹³ *Contribute to the needs of the saints and*
- ✓ *seek to show hospitality.*

- ✓ ¹⁴ *Bless those who persecute you;*
 - *bless and do not curse them.*
- ✓ ¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*
- ✓ ¹⁶ *Live in harmony with one another.*
 - *Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.*
- ✓ *Never be wise in your own sight.*
- ✓ ¹⁷ *Repay no one evil for evil,*
 - *but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.*
- ✓ ¹⁸ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
 - ¹⁹ *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”* ²⁰ *To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head [ERV – “In doing this you will make them feel ashamed”].”*
- ✓ ²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

ⁱ All scripture printed in this text is taken from the English Standard Translation (ESV) unless noted.