

Christians Gone Wild!  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, week 29**  
Spiritual Gifts III: Apostles, Teaching, Helps, Administration, Evangelism, Biblical  
Counseling (1 Corinthians 12:27–31a; Ephesians 4:11–13)  
August 20, 2006  
Pastor Mark Driscoll

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*  
1 Corinthians 12:27

We are in the third week of a seven-week study of the spiritual gifts. This week we will examine the gifts of apostles, teaching, helps/service, and administration from 1 Corinthians 12:27–31a, along with evangelism and biblical counseling/pastoring from Ephesians 4:11–13.

### **Apostles**

**Place in Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

**Defined:** There is much confusion regarding the spiritual gift of apostleship because there is sometimes a failure to distinguish between the office of apostle and the gift of apostle. The office of apostle refers to the twelve chosen by Jesus (Matthew 10:1; 19:28; 20:17; Mark 3:13–19; 6:7; 9:35; 10:32; Luke 6:12–16; 8:1; 9:1; 22:19–30; John 6:70–71; Revelation 21:14). The requirements for the office of apostle include being an eyewitness to the life and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:21–26). Another requirement is miraculous power (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 8:18; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:4). Therefore, apostles do not exist today (e.g., writing books of the Bible), although the function of their office does continue in a limited sense. For example, apostleship in a secondary sense applies to such people as Barnabas (Acts 14:3–4, 14), Apollos and Sosthenes (1 Corinthians 4:6–9), Andronicus and Junias (Romans 16:7), James (Galatians 1:19), and Silas and Timothy (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6). They, like apostles today, were gifted individuals sent out to move from place to place in order to begin and establish local churches (Acts 13:3–4). This gift also includes the capacity to minister cross-culturally (Acts 10:34–35; Ephesians 3:7–8). Today, church planters and missionaries are operating out of their gift of apostleship as well as those Christian leaders God raises up to lead and influence multiple churches and pastors.

**General makeup:** These people often have a number of gifts, such as evangelism, teaching, leadership, faith, and exhortation and are motivated by difficult new tasks.

**Seen in Jesus' ministry:** Hebrews 3:1 says, "Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess." Jesus also builds the church (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 3:1–6). He is the chief cornerstone of the church, upon which the foundation of the prophets and apostles is laid (Ephesians 2:20), and over which He rules as Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

**Illustrated biblically:** Paul (Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus all open with Paul introducing himself as an apostle). Also, a reading of Acts shows how Paul

ministered cross-culturally and planted churches. Peter also held the office of apostle (Galatians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:1).

**Common errors regarding apostles:** Cult leaders and erroneous teachers say that they have authority that is, in effect, equal to Scripture because they are apostles just like those who wrote the Bible. But such people are false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13; Revelation 2:2) and delusional “super-apostles” (2 Corinthians 11:5, 13; 12:11).

**Do you have this gift?** (1) Can you effectively minister cross-culturally? (2) Are you called and qualified to plant a church? (3) Can you start a church from nothing? (4) Are you an entrepreneur? (5) Has God given you leadership and influence over multiple churches as a movement leader? (6) Can you pioneer a ministry where others have failed?

### Teaching

**Place in Scripture:** Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

**Defined:** The gift of teaching is the God-given ability to understand and communicate biblical truth in a clear and relevant manner so that there is understanding and application.

**General makeup:** Learning, researching, communicating, and illustrating truth are qualities that an individual will manifest when exercising the gift of teaching. These people enjoy studying and learning new information, and find great joy in sharing it with others. The format of teaching varies from one-on-one discipleship to formal classes, informal Bible studies, large groups, and preaching, which is a form of teaching.

**Seen in Jesus’ ministry:** Throughout the gospels, Jesus was commonly referred to as *Rabbi*, which means “teacher.” Matthew 4:23 says that “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching,” and Matthew 7:28–29 says that “the crowds were amazed at his [Jesus’] teaching because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”

**Illustrated biblically:** Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:26), Paul (Acts 19:8–10; 20:20; Colossians 1:28; 1 Timothy 2:7), elders/pastors (1 Timothy 3:2; 5:17), Timothy (1 Timothy 4:11, 13; 6:2), and godly women (Titus 2:2–4) all demonstrated the gift of teaching.

**Do you have this gift?** (1) Do you enjoy studying and researching? (2) Do you enjoy imparting biblical truth to others? (3) Do others come to you for insight into Scripture? (4) When you teach, do people “get it”? (5) When you see someone confused in their understanding of the Bible do you feel a responsibility to speak to them about it? (6) Do you enjoy speaking to various sizes of groups about biblical issues you have strong convictions about?

### Helps/Service

**Place in Scripture:** Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

**Defined:** The gift of helps/service is the ability to joyfully work alongside another and help that person complete the task God has given them. People with this gift generally prefer to work behind the scenes. They also tend to find joy in helping alleviate the burdens and responsibilities of others. This gift is usually accompanied with an attitude of humility and sacrifice, as well as an ability to perceive the needs of others.

**General makeup:** These people tend to demonstrate a servant attitude, loyalty, attention to detail, and responsiveness to the initiatives of others. They function well in positions of detail and assistant leadership.

**Seen in Jesus' ministry:** Matthew 20:28 says that "the Son of Man [Jesus] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus also said, "I am among you as one who serves," and He even washed His disciples' feet (Luke 22:27; John 13:5).

**Illustrated biblically:** Because servants often work behind the scenes, their work but not their name is often mentioned in Scripture (e.g., Numbers 11:17; 1 Timothy 6:2; Acts 6:1–3). People named in the Bible who helped the church through service include Phoebe, Priscilla, Aquila, Tryphena, Tryphosa (Romans 16:1–4,12), and John Mark (Acts 13:5). Some people with this gift are also appointed to leadership as church deacons (1 Timothy 3:8–13).

**Do you have this gift?** (1) Do you enjoy helping others become more effective in their work? (2) Do you prefer to labor behind the scenes? (3) When someone is doing a job poorly is your first instinct to help them instead of criticize? (4) Do you prefer to work in a supportive rather than a leadership capacity? (5) When you hear of someone with needs, do you offer your services if possible? (6) When someone asks for your help, do you have difficulty saying no?

### Administration

**Place in Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:28

**Defined:** The gift of administration is the God-given ability to give direction and make decisions on behalf of others that result in efficient operation and accomplishment of goals. Administration includes the ability to organize people, things, information, finances, etc. Often the mark of an administrator is the ability to accomplish things in a "fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

**General makeup:** Administrators often have a keen eye for detail. They may also possess the natural talents of organization, observing and using details, problem solving, and reasoning.

**Seen in Jesus' ministry:** Jesus organized His ministry by choosing his inner circle of three disciples (Mark 9:2), appointing the twelve (Mark 3:13–14), and sending out the seventy two by two (Luke 10:1).

**Illustrated biblically:** Joseph (Genesis 41:41–57; 47:13–26), Jethro (Exodus 18), and Titus (Titus 1:5) all demonstrate the gift of administration.

**Do you have this gift?** (1) When things are poorly organized do you get frustrated and want to help fix things? (2) Can you bring order out of chaos? (3) Do you naturally organize your life, schedule, finances, priorities, etc.? (4) Do you become energized working on tasks and projects? (5) Do things like efficiency and promptness matter more to you than most people? (6) Do things like spreadsheets, budgets, organizational charts and software, files, highlighters, and label makers make you happy?

### Evangelism

**Place in Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11

**Defined:** The gift of evangelism is the ability and desire to boldly and clearly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ so that non-Christians can become Christians.

**General makeup:** Evangelists often care passionately about lost people and have a strong desire to see them meet Jesus. They feel compassion for the lost and seek to earnestly understand their questions and doubts so that they can provide a compelling answer. An evangelist often prefers being with people in the culture rather than hanging out with Christians in the church.

**Seen in Jesus' ministry:** Luke 19:10 says that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." People accused Jesus of being "a friend of tax collectors and 'sinners'" because He had many evangelistic relationships with sinful people (Matthew 11:19).

**Illustrated biblically:** Philip (Acts 21:8), Timothy (2 Timothy 4:5)

**Do you have this gift?** (1) Do you enjoy being with non-Christians and sharing the gospel? (2) Are you able to effectively communicate to non-Christians in a language they can understand? (3) Does a person's conversion bring you profound joy? (4) Do you feel frustrated when you haven't shared your faith for a while? (5) Do you enjoy teaching others how to share their faith? (6) Do you find it easy to direct a conversation toward the topic of Jesus Christ?

### Pastor/Biblical Counseling

**Place in Scripture:** Ephesians 4:11

**Defined:** In one sense, pastoring is the office reserved for those men who meet the Biblical criteria (1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9). In another sense, there is a pastoral gift also commonly known as shepherding or biblical counseling that God gives to people in the church beyond the pastors/elders. These people protect, guide, counsel, and disciple other people.

**General makeup:** The person with a pastoral gifting has a love for people that compels them to meet with people to care for them and guide them with Biblical instruction. People with this gift find great joy in seeing people mature in their faith and overcome besetting sin and discouragement.

**Seen in Jesus' ministry:** Jesus is called the "good Shepherd" (John 10:11–14; 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25) and the "Chief Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4). Also, the Bible gives us snapshots of Jesus sitting with people to pastor them, such as His interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4.

**Illustrated biblically:** Paul (Acts 20:17–35)

**Do you have this gift?** (1) Do you have a deep love for people that compels you to care for them? (2) Do you enjoy meeting with people to listen to their life story and provide them biblical counsel? (3) When you hear that someone is hurting is your first instinct to try and meet with them to be of help? (4) Are you able to point out sin and folly in someone's life in a loving way that they receive as helpful? (5) Do you enjoy meeting with Christians to help them mature in their faith? (6) Do people pursue you for counsel and instruction?

**Verses for next week:** Romans 12:6–8, 13. We will examine the spiritual gifts of encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy, and hospitality.