

DIVERSITY IN UNITY  
(Ephesians 4:7-10)

- I. Christ's GIFTS to BELIEVERS (Eph. 4:7)
  - A. EACH believer receives GRACE
    - 1. What we are given is NOT DESERVED
    - 2. What we are given is ENABLEMENT
  - B. That "grace" is a GIFT
  - C. EACH gift is INDIVIDUALIZED
    - 1. No gift should be SOUGHT
    - 2. No gift should be EXALTED
    - 3. No gift should be UNUSED
  
- II. Christ's RIGHT to Give GIFTS (Eph. 4:8-10)
  - A. Christ LEFT the Father to DESCEND to the earth
    - 1. This required His INCARNATION
    - 2. It included His DEATH and BURIAL

3. While in the GRAVE He visited the CAPTIVE SPIRITS and proclaimed His VICTORY (cf. 1 Peter 3:18-19)
- B. Christ RETURNED to the Father above “the HEAVENS”
1. This required His RESURRECTION
  2. It included His VISIBLE ASCENSION
  3. He went HOME in TRIUMPH and to DELIVER His “CAPTIVES”
  4. He “fills ALL THINGS” by claiming His throne as the UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGN
- C. His RIGHT to give gifts is PROVED/ESTABLISHED/VALIDATED by His ASCENSION
1. He has DEFEATED Satan, sin and death
  2. He has FREED those who were their CAPTIVES
  3. Therefore, He can apportion gifts of ENABLEMENT according to His sovereign PURPOSE