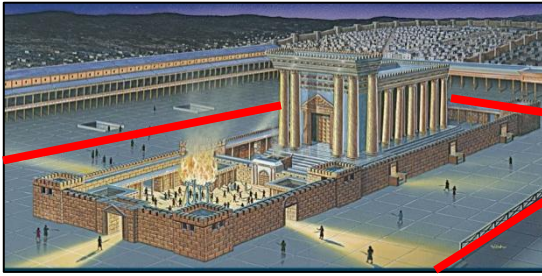


Week 5—Ephesus: Unity and Individual Gifts

Paul is Arrested in Jerusalem for Allegedly bringing Trophimus into the Temple Area



Acts 20-22

Gentiles: were forbidden to cross the barrier separating the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Women. When Paul returned to Jerusalem from his third journey, he reported to James and the other apostles what God had been doing among the Gentiles who believed.

Jews: thousands who had believed in Jesus and still treasured their Jewish traditions had heard that Paul was telling the Jewish believers of the Diaspora to abandon their Jewish customs after believing in Jesus. The apostles advised Paul to dispel the rumor by paying the vow for four Jewish believers.

While Paul was paying for the vow, Jews from Asia (probably from Ephesus) yelled out that he had brought a Gentile past the barrier and had defiled the Temple. They had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, in the city with Paul earlier. When the mob grabbed Paul to kill him, the Roman garrison in the Antonia Fortress were called in to quell the disturbance.

Paul's Message to the Gentile/Jewish Ephesians: Basis of Unity is Jesus

Ephesians 2, 4

- Jesus has fulfilled the righteous requirements of God's Law.
- Jesus has taken away the hostility that God has toward the sinner and their sin. The Jewish person who came to God on the basis of the blood of Jesus and His completed work on their behalf had access to the throne of God.
- The Gentile person who came to God on the basis of the blood of Jesus and His completed work on their behalf had access to the throne of God.
- Those who had believed in Jesus were being built into a HOLY Temple—the place where God's very Presence, His Holy Spirit, dwells.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and **has destroyed the barrier**, the **dividing wall of hostility**, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself **one** new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in **one body** to reconcile **both of them** to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him **we both have access** to the Father by **one** Spirit.

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple** in the Lord. And in him you too **are being built together to become a dwelling** in which God lives by his Spirit.*

God Gave Gifts for us to Build Up and Grow Up

- Gifts are not "to use" but "**to build up**".
- Gifts are used by the Holy Spirit. They are seen through **the effect** they have on the ones benefitting from the gift.
- Gifts are usually confirmed by others, and bring great joy to both the person using their gift and the one receiving the benefit.
- The gifted person is an example of what it would look like for the rest of us!
- Spiritual Gifts are not the product of temperament type. Beware of Gift Testing!!
- The position and the gift might not be the same.
- The gift can be exercised in many contexts.

Beware of Gift Ranking and Gift Comparison!!

I Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:3-9,
12:1-13:13
Ephesians 4
Romans 12:3-8
I Peter 4:10

GIFT JEALOUSY--When two people have the same or similar gifting.
GIFT COVETOUSNESS--Wanting someone else's gift or belittling one's own gift.
GIFT ENVY--Wishing someone else didn't have their gift.
GIFT PRIDE--Thinking one's gift is superior or able to function independently of the other gifts.

Spiritual FRUIT, not spiritual gifting, is the mark of maturity.

I Cor. 13