

Employing God's Gifts Series

Chapter 6: Three New Testament Offices: Terms and Functions

I. introductory Verses for Series (4 Series Goals: Mutual Service, Clear Thinking, Unity & Growth in Usage) (1 Peter 4:10) As each one has received a gift, employ it in servicing one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (NASB – Edited by gw)

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6) ⁴Now there are varieties (διαίρεσις / *diairesis*) of gifts (Χάρισμα / *charisma*), but the same Spirit (πνεῦμα / *pneuma*). ⁵And there are varieties (διαίρεσις / *diairesis*) of ministries (διακονία / *diakonia*), and the same Lord (κύριος / *kyrios*). ⁶There are varieties (διαίρεσις / *diairesis*) of effects (ἐνέργημα / *energēma*), but the same God (θεός / *theos*) who works all things in all *persons*.

Note: διαίρεσις (*diairesis*) division, distribution, distinction, difference - in particular, a distinction arising from a different distribution to different persons (Vs. 4: Holy Spirit; Vs. 5: Lord Jesus: Vs. 6: Father God)

II. Employing God's Gifts Series: 13 Chapter Titles (One Sunday per Chapter – 13 CDs)

1. Chapter 1: Getting Properly Oriented: Understanding & Employing Gifts & Fruits to Serve Each Other
2. Chapter 2: Biblical "Gift" Words / 4 Gift Classifications & 3 Church Gifts Categories – Part A
3. Chapter 3: Biblical "Gift" Words / 4 Gift Classifications & 3 Church Gifts Categories – Part B
4. Chapter 4: Seven Gifts of Motivation or Temperament – Part A (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8)
5. Chapter 5: Seven Gifts of Motivation or Temperament – Part B (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8)
6. Chapter 6: Three New Testament Offices: Terms and Functions (Matthew 16:18)
7. Chapter 7: Seven Gifts of Service – Part A (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
8. Chapter 8: Seven Gifts of Service – Part B (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
9. Chapter 9: Nine Gifts of the Spirit – Part A - The 3 Word Gifts (1 Corinthians 12: 4, 7-11)
10. Chapter 10: Nine Gifts of the Spirit – Parts B & C - The 3 Discernment Gifts & The 3 Power Gifts
11. Chapter 11: Employing Spiritual Gifts in Serving One Another at Meetings – (1 Corinthians 14)
12. Chapter 12: Employing Spiritual Gifts in Proclaiming the King (Mark 16: 20) (Acts 4:29-31; 33)
13. Chapter 13: Cultivating Three Types of Biblical Fruit – Every Seed Brings Forth Its Own Kind

III. Three New Testament Offices: Terms & Functions: (In Addition to & Background for Service Gifts)

A. Priest & Priesthood: The Priesthood of All Believers – (See Definition Below)

(Exodus 19:5-6) Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

(Joshua 13:33) But to the tribe of Levi, Moses did not give an inheritance; the Lord, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as He had promised to them.

(Revelation 1:6) and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 5:10) "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

(1 Peter 2:5, 9) ... you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (Quoted from Exodus 19:5-6 - Explain)

1. Definition: ἱερεύς (*hiereus*) & ἱεράτευμα (*hierateuma*) - a priest, one who performs the sacerdotal function or belongs to priestly order. One who offers sacrifices and in general is busy with sacred rites and entrusted with teaching the pattern of God's ways, covenants, laws, etc.; in NT Epistles (i.e. early church usage) a metaphor of Jewish or Gentile Christians, because, purified by the blood of Christ and brought into close intercourse with God, they devote their life to Christ alone, functioning in the roles of the fulfilled Priesthoods of Melchizedek & the Levites.

2. Explanation: In New Testament All Disciples are Called to Serve as Priest under our High Priest, Jesus.
 - a. We have no inheritance in this world - The Lord is our Inheritance. (Hebrews 11, Etc.)
 - b. Called to offer spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Includes: Worship, Intercession, Declaration, Etc.)
 - c. Called to have God's Law written in our hearts and the fabric of our lives, so as to open the eyes of the blind, reconcile the alienated to His Community; and teach His Ways, Covenants, Law, Etc.
 - d. Many More Implications – All 7 Institutions of Government

B. Overseers, Elders, Bishops & Presbyters – Used Interchangeably Throughout N.T. / Always Plural (I Timothy 5:17) The elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*) who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching (Titus 1:5-7a) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*) in every city as I directed you, ⁶ *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer (ἐπίσκοπος / *episkopos*) must be ...

(Acts 20:17-18a; 28) ¹⁷From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*) of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them ... ²⁸ "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (ἐπίσκοπος / *episkopos*), to shepherd (ποιμαίνω / *poimainō*), the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

(I Peter 5:1-2, 5a) Therefore, I exhort the elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*) among you, as *your* fellow elder (συμπρεσβύτερος / *sympresbyteros*), and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd (ποιμαίνω / *poimainō*), the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (ἐπισκοπέω / *episkopeō*), not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ... ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders (πρεσβύτερος / *presbyteros*); and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, ...

1. πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*) – Those who presided over the assemblies, communities, churches. Developed from Jewish Scriptural use, thus those in separate cities who managed public affairs or administered justice. (Cf. Matthew 16:18) Also used of Sanhedrin & the 24 Heavenly Elders... (Explain)

2. ἐπίσκοπος (*episkopos*) – to look upon, inspect, oversee, look after, care for; of the care of the church which rested upon the elders; to look carefully, beware

3. ποιμαίνω (*poimainō*) – to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep; to rule, govern; of rulers; to furnish pasture for food; to nourish; to cherish, to serve the body, to supply the requisites for the soul's needs.

C. Deacons –

(1 Timothy 3:8-13) Deacons (διάκονος / *diakonos*), likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

¹¹ Women (γυνή / *gynē*) *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

¹² Deacons must be husbands of one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (See Acts 6:1-8ff & Subsequent Development of Stephen & Phillip)

1. διάκονος (*diakonos*) – one who executes the commands of a master, a servant, attendant, minister; the servant of a king; a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use; a waiter, one who serves.

2. γυνή (*gynē*) - a woman of any age, whether a virgin, or married, or a widow; a wife; of a betrothed woman. It is unclear whether this is a reference to deacon's wives (as in KJV & ESV) or deaconesses.

Note: We derive the word gynecology from γυνή (*gynē*).

IV. Upcoming Weeks: See Chapter Titles Under Roman Numeral II (Next Chapter: Service Gifts)