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"God the creator intends to bring heaven and earth together at last, and [his] plan has been decisively inaugurated in Jesus Christ."
 N.T. Wright *After You Believe*, ix

2

"...that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."
 Ephesians 3:6 NRSV

3

“...so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

4

“When we have become reconciled (made friends) with God, we are always expected to be making friends for Jesus (doing the work of reconciliation) or serving through acts of ministry.”
William J. Carter *Each One A Minister*, pg 20

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7

The promises we make when we become members of God's church in a local fellowship:
-Faith in Jesus as God's Son and our Savior
-Turn from sin and follow Jesus
-Faithful participation in the life of the church

Guide for New Church Members Brethren Press

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Faithful participation in the life of the church:
To be loyal to the church in our prayers
To uphold the church with our presence
To uphold the church with our substance:
sharing faith, life, and wealth or goods
To uphold the church with our service

9

To uphold the church with our service:

- 1. All of us are priests. Every believer is called to serve or minister, not just a select few.**
- 2. Serving God includes serving others, Mt 25:30**
- 3. Christ calls us to serve in and outside the church. We are to convey in word and deed the caring love which God has revealed in Jesus Christ.**

10

Congregations that have inviting and inspiring worship; disciples engaged in mission and outreach; gifted, empowered, and equipped congregational leadership; small groups; and strong children and youth ministries are those that demonstrate the attributes of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

11

“Our ultimate goal as members of the body of Christ is to reach out in love, seeking others who need to hear the good news and forming disciples who will in turn reach out in love to others whom they encounter in their daily lives.”

12

Ministries that Receive:
Worship Ministries: Leading and participating in private and public worship opportunities and in private devotional experiences.

13

Ministries that Receive:
Congregational Care Ministries: Demonstrating Christian concern and care for people within the congregation and for other people who need comfort, friendship, or personal support.

14

Ministries that Receive:
Relational Ministries: Building personal relationships that become channels of God's love and grace.

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Ministries that Relate:

Teaching and Learning Ministries:
Helping people acquire a knowledge of the faith and increasing understanding and skills for ministry.

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Ministries that Relate:

Spiritual Growth Ministries: Starting and ongoing experiences for people who are seeking growth in relationship with God.

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Ministries that Relate:

Helping Ministries: Providing assistance in the functioning of the local church and to people with special needs.

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Ministries that Equip:

Administrative Ministries: Ministering through church leadership positions to the people who are part of the organization of the church and the congregation.

19

Ministries that Equip:

Support and Encouragement Ministries: Providing spiritual, social, financial, and/or emotional support for people in mission or in times of stress.

20

Ministries that Equip:

Wholeness Ministries: Relating Creator and creation, providing for healing and reconciliation among people, through social structures, and in our world.

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Ministries that Send:

Workplace Ministries: Relating to people in the workplace in ways that reflect our identity as Christians and our personal and social concern.

22

Ministries that Send:

Community Ministries: Being involved in activities that exemplify Christian concern and care for social and personal needs in the surrounding community.

23

Ministries that Send:

Witness Ministries: Taking advantage of opportunities and techniques for evangelism and faith sharing in varied settings, at home and around the world.

24

The gifts are divine abilities to bring about justice, wholeness, and righteousness, simplified and exemplified in the life and works of Jesus Christ. The ultimate goal of revealing God’s glory in all things and persons is the central theme of the four major passages that talk about spiritual gifts: Romans 12:6-8, 27-30; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; Ephesians 4:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

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***“Spiritual gifts are special, extraordinary abilities that God gives to build up the body of Christ, the church, for ministry to its members and, through its members, the world.*”**

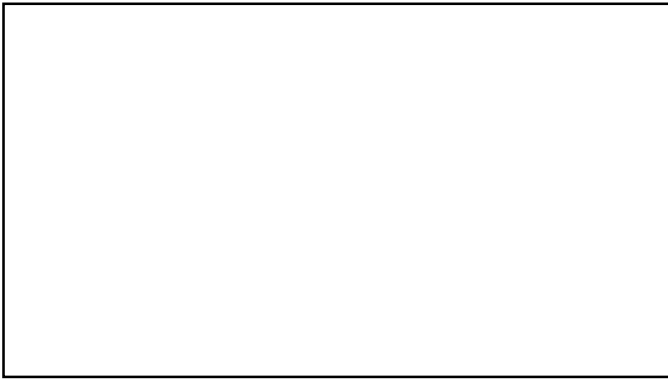
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“Because the church can do anything for the betterment of humanity when it is receptive to God’s energizing grace, we do not have to waste our time and energy worrying about the welfare of persons and the world. We can confidently believe that God will take care of the world’s needs as we faithfully receive and use our spiritual gifts. More than this we cannot do; less than this we dare not do. We have the plan, equipment, and divine empowerment to be instruments of redemption for the whole human family. The gifts of the Spirit guarantee immediate and lasting results.” Charles Bryant

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