

HOW TO GIVE THE BEST GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS

1. JESUS HAS GIVEN ME A GIFT

...he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. Ephesians 4:7 (NLT)

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Ephesians 4:11 (NLT)

- Apostles pioneer and explore.
- Prophets hear God's voice.
- Evangelists recruit.
- Pastors nurture and protect.
- Teachers understand and explain.

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For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

2. I AM A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:12-16 (NLT)

"CLERGY" LED CHURCH

100 People
+ 1 Pastor

1 Minister

EPHESIANS 4 CHURCH

100 People
+ 1 Pastor

101 Ministers

3. THE CHURCH IS A GIFT TO THE WORLD

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us... Ephesians 2:11-14 (NLT)

THIS WEEK'S READING:

- DEC 10: Eph. 5:21-33; Ezekiel 16; Isa. 45
- DEC 11: Eph. 6; Ezekiel 17; Isa. 46
- DEC 12: Phil. 1:1-11; Ezekiel 18; Isa. 47

- DEC 13: Phil. 1:12-30; Ezekiel 19; Isa. 48
- DEC 14: Phil. 2:1-11; Ezekiel 20; Isa. 49
- DEC 15: Phil. 2:12-30; Ezekiel 21-22; Isa. 50
- DEC 16: Phil. 3; Ezekiel 23; Isa. 51

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