

# Ephesians Series

Lesson #140

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# Temporary and Permanent Gifts

## Ephesians 4:11



# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,**

**Eph. 4:12, “**for** the equipping of the saints **for** the work of ministry, **for** the edifying of the body of Christ,**

**Eph. 4:13, “until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**the Church  
(Ecclesiology)**



# **Review**

## **1. The use of the term “church” in the New Testament:**

- the universal (or invisible) Church which includes all Church Age believers alive or with the Lord.**
- The singular “church” in the Greek refers to a group of churches in a city, a region, or in several regions.**
- The singular church also refers to a local assembly of believers, a local expression of the body of Christ.**

## **When Did the Church Begin?**

**The Church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost, *ca* AD 33.**

**Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build [future] My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**

**Acts 5:11, “So great fear came upon all the church [now present] and upon all who heard these things.”**

# When is the Sign of the Church?

## 1. The Baptism by the Holy Spirit, unique to the Church Age

It was future for John the Baptist, Matt. 3:11, and for Jesus just before He ascended.

Acts 1:5, “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

# When is the Sign of the Church?

## 2. The Holy Spirit Descended in Acts 2

**Acts 2:2, “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

**Acts 2:3, “Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.**

**Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

### **3. The Church is not equated with the Kingdom.**

**a. The universal rule of God over all of His creation**

**b. The theocratic rule of God over Israel [in the past and in the future]**

**c. The future reign of Messiah from the throne of David in Jerusalem. This is an earthly, geo-political kingdom that is yet future. Its initial stage is 1,000 years, Rev. 20:1–8**

**Dan. 7:26, “ ‘But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.**

**Dan. 7:27, “ ‘*Then* the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’ ”**

**4. The Church is not spiritual Israel. God's plan for the Church is distinct and separate from His plan for Israel.**

**Thus we must understand who we are as Church Age believers in distinction from Israel.**

**We are not in the Kingdom now. We are the Church the Body of Christ and Christ is the Head of the Church and He gives gifts to the Church to edify and mature believers in this dispensation.**

**Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles,  
some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors  
and teachers,**

**Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work  
of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”**

**An apostle is one who was commissioned by Christ Himself to the task of establishing the Church in the Church Age. That is the technical use.**

**There were no more apostles after the last of the twelve died.**

**There is one group designated as the twelve apostles. These are the ones who were called and commissioned directly by the Lord Jesus Christ to go to make disciples and to proclaim the gospel, to establish churches, and to provide for revelation.**

**Rev. 21:14, “Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations [Θεμέλιος, *themelios*], and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”**

**An apostle must have been an eyewitness of the words and works of Jesus Christ.**

**Acts 1:21, “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,**

**Acts 1:22, “beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”**

**Others who were identified as apostles, but did not have the office. These are distinguished because they were not commissioned by Christ, but were commissioned by one of the Twelve or by a congregation.**

## **Three things indicate apostleship was temporary.**

- **The office was limited to those who witnessed the resurrected Christ and were called and directly commissioned by Him.**
- **Apostles and prophets were the foundation of the Church.**
- **The use of *apostle* to designate someone who was sent by a congregation does not mean they had the spiritual gift, they certainly did not have the office.**

**The purpose of these foundational gifts was to provide spiritual direction in the early years of the Church through verbal and written revelation.**

**Both the gift of apostles and prophets as spiritual leaders in the foundation of the Church were to be temporary.**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**Temporary Gifts**



**1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”**

**1. Spiritual gifts are divinely and sovereignly given gifts for the body of Christ, the universal Church.**

**2. Key passages are:**

**Rom. 12:3–8, which also emphasizes love.**

**1 Corinthians chapters 12–14**

**Ephesians 4:11, 12**

## **The Context**

**1 Cor. 12:7, “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:**

**1 Cor. 12:8, “for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,**

**1 Cor. 12:9, “to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,”**

## **The Context**

**1 Cor. 12:10, “to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.**

**1 Cor. 12:11, “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

**1 Cor. 12:12, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”**

**1 Cor. 12:28, “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of languages.**

**1 Cor. 12:29, “Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?**

**1 Cor. 12:30, “Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with previously unlearned languages? Do all interpret?**

**1 Cor. 12:31, “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”**

# **Temporary Gifts**

- **the word of wisdom**
- **the word of knowledge**
- **faith**
- **gifts of healings**
- **the working of miracles**
- **to another prophecy**
- **to another discerning of spirits**
- **to another different kinds of languages**
- **to another the interpretation of languages**

# **1 Corinthians Chapter 14**

**Regulations for the use of the gift of languages and the gift of prophecy.**

**The discussion of love is introduced in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, because of all of these gifts, and as well as the spiritual qualities of faith and hope, only love is permanent.**

**And all gifts must operate on the principle of divine love, not emotion.**

**1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will fail.”**

**~RD**

**1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails.**

**But [contrasts love with prophecies, the gift of languages, and knowledge]**

**whether there are prophecies, they will fail [καταργέω *katargeō*];**

**whether there are tongues, they will cease [παύω *pauō*];**

**whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away [καταργέω *katargeō*];”**

1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails.

But [contrasts love with prophecies, the gift of languages, and knowledge]

whether there are prophecies, they will fail [καταργέω *katargeō*];

whether there are tongues, they will cease [παύω *pauō*];

whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away [καταργέω *katargeō*];”

καταργέω *katargeō* 3 plur fut pass indic

to cause something to come to an end or to be no longer in existence, *abolish, wipe out, set aside*

**1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails.**

**But [contrast love with prophecies, the gift of languages, and knowledge]**

**whether there are prophecies, they will be set aside [καταργέω *katargeō*];**

**whether there are tongues, they will end [παύω *pauiō*];**

**whether there is knowledge, it will be set aside [καταργέω *katargeō*];” ~RD**

**παύω *pauiō* 3 plur fut mid indic to cause something to stop, cease, end**

# Four Interpretive Keys

1. The significance of the shift in verbs and voice in verse 8 [**prophecies and knowledge *will be abolished*, tongues “will cease”**]
2. The meaning of “the perfect” (τέλειος, *teleios*) in verse 10 [**“what completes”**]
3. The temporal shift from “now” to “then” in verses 12 and 13, and different words for “now.”
4. The point of the two illustrations in verses 11 and 12.

**1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails.**

**But, if<sup>1</sup> there are prophecies, they will be set aside**  
[καταργέω *katargeō*];

**if<sup>1</sup> there are tongues, they will end** [παύω *pauiō*];

**if<sup>1</sup> there is knowledge, it will be set aside** [καταργέω  
*katargeō*].”

**παύω *pauiō* 3 plur fut mid indic to cause something to stop,  
cease, end**

**“For we know in part [ἐκ μέρους, *ek merous*], and we prophesy in part [*ek merous*]. (1 Cor. 13:9)**

**“But when the perfect [τὸ τέλειον, *to teleion*] comes, the partial [*ek merous*] will be done away [*katargeo*].” (1 Cor. 13:10)**

**“For we know in part [ἐκ μέρους, *ek merous*], and we prophesy in part [*ek merous*]. (1 Cor. 13:9)**

**“But when the perfect [τὸ τέλειον, *to teleion*] comes, the partial [*ek merous*] will be set aside [*katargeo*].” (1 Cor. 13:10)**

**“in part” means *partial, or incomplete*.**

**What is learned from the exercise of gifts of knowledge and prophecy is partial, incomplete, but when that which completes comes, the partial is set aside.**

## Four Observations on 1 Cor. 13:8, 9

1. ***Prophecy* and *Knowledge* are both partial.**
2. ***Prophecy* and *Knowledge* are both abolished (*καταργέω katargeō*). “The partial will be set aside.”**
3. **Prophecy and Knowledge are both set aside by the “perfect”, i.e., that which completes.**
4. **Maturity “abolishes” or supersedes childishness (v. 11). “I set aside childish things.”**

# **Seven Interpretations of the “Perfect”**

## **“Completion”**

**Completed Canon**

**Mature Church**

## **“Perfection”**

**Death, face to face  
with the Lord**

**Rapture**

**Second Coming**

**Eternal State**

**Eschaton**

**1 Cor. 13:11, “When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I set aside childish things.”**

**“For now we see in a mirror [incomplete Canon] dimly but then [when the Canon is complete] face to face; now [ἄρτι, *arti*] I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.” (1 Cor. 13:12)**

**ἄρτι, *arti*; now in this precanon period]**

**[ αἴνιγμα, *ainigma*]**

**Num. 12:6, “He said, ‘Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.**

**Num. 12:7, “Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household;”**

**Num. 12:8, “With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings (αἴνιγμα, *ainigma*, LXX), and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?”**

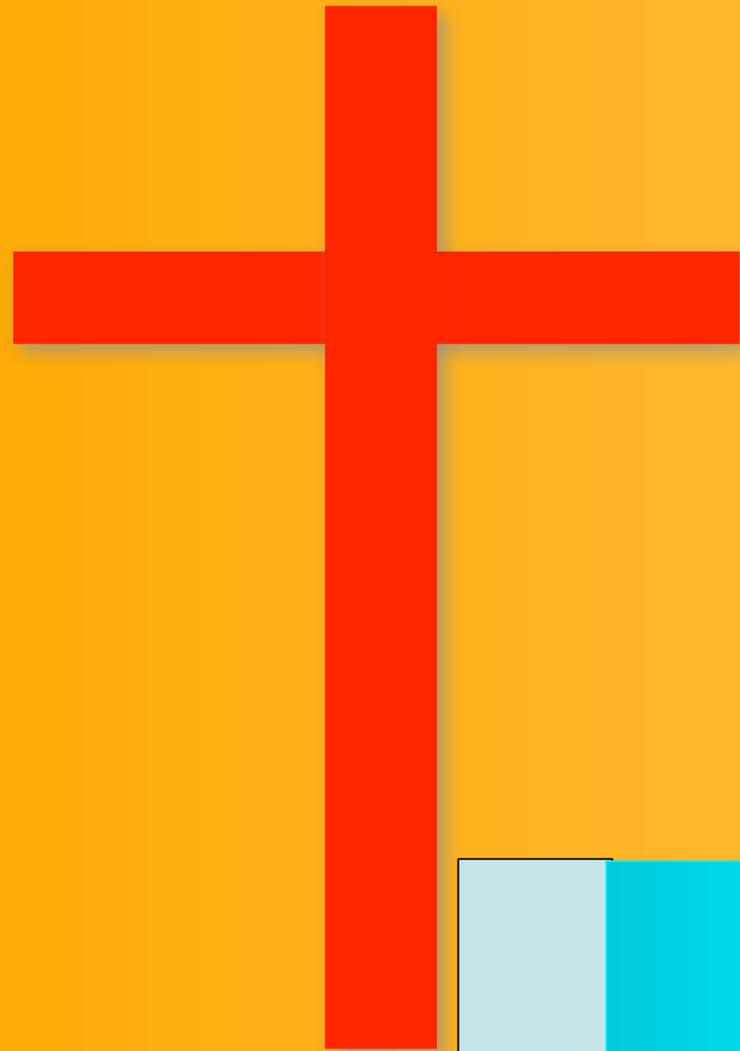
**1 Cor. 13:12, “For now we see [ourselves] in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know myself in part, but then I shall know myself fully just as I also have been fully known.”**

**NOW**

**THEN**

**Child**

**Mature  
Adult**



**Canon  
Post-Apostolic Period  
A.D. 95–**



**Pre-Canon  
Apostolic Period  
A.D. 33–95**

**“But now [*Nuvì, / nuni*] abide faith, hope, love,  
these three; but the greatest of these is love.”  
(1 Cor. 13:13)**

**2 Cor. 5:7, “for we walk by faith, not by sight —**

**2 Cor. 5:8, “we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”**

**Heb. 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

**Rom. 8:24, “For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?”**

**1 Cor. 14:21–22, “In the Law it is written, ‘*By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to Me,*’ says the Lord. So then *the gift of languages* are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers, but to those who believe.”**

**Isa. 28:11, “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.**

**Isa. 28:12, “To whom he said, ‘This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest;’ and ‘This is the refreshing’: yet they would not hear.”**

**Deut. 28:49, “The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand,”**