**Sermon Text – Ephesians 4:11-16**

**12/26/21**

**What’s the Point?**

**Introduction ~**

Christmas is now in the past, at least for 2021. The wrapping paper may still be on the floor, gifts may still be in their boxes, but it is now time to consider what the coming of the Messiah meant in practical terms for the Church (That would be you and me!).

When I refer to the Church, I’m always referring to you and me, individual followers of Jesus Christ that, together, make up “the Church.” We are a strange creation, something entirely new; the union of the spiritual with the physical, the union of fallen man and the risen Lord. The fact is,

The Church is the only hospital where you can go in sick, and come out the doctor.[[1]](#footnote-1)

What makes the difference? We are indwelt by the Spirit of God; that should make a difference! As we come to terms with the reality that we’re now faced with a new year, and an entirely different set of challenges, and of losses, we also face opportunities for personal growth and expressions of the love of God… and if we allow ourselves to experience it, there can be joy in the coming year.

**Context ~**

Now, what I would like to propose is counter intuitive, but I’d like to point out that the experience of joy is not the product of having everything the way we want it, nor is it the product of fantastic vacations. Instead… it is the product of serving others as we work in the spiritual gifts we, each one, have been given.

Our text today is a part of the second literary unit of the fourth chapter of Ephesians. It encompasses Ephesians 4:7–16 ~

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8 Therefore He says:

*“When He ascended on high,*

*He led captivity captive,*

*And gave gifts to men.”*

9 (Now this, *“He ascended”*—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Here Paul shows the diversity of Christ’s giving of grace, and particularly His gifts of various ministers of the Word. This giving is intended to promote both the unity and maturity of the Church.[[3]](#footnote-3) The not-always-obvious fact that the Church’s organization is not merely a human arrangement comes into play. Rather than simply a human institution, its structure reflects the mysterious plan of God.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Our text opens in Ephesians 4:11 ~

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,…[[5]](#footnote-5)

The passage opens with “and” (καί),[[6]](#footnote-6) a logical connective[[7]](#footnote-7) that serves to join our passage with the preceding one.[[8]](#footnote-8) The link with the previous verse is further strengthened through the repeated use of the word “He” (αυτος).[[9]](#footnote-9)

There’s a lot of brute memorization involved in learning Greek.

If you want to remember that (αυτος) in Greek is “He” in English, I think it sounds like “auto.” So I picture someone, “he” driving this absolutely amazing auto. Now, make the effort to see this clearly, that auto is painted a fluorescent pink, it has HUGE mag tires, the roar of the engine is deafening. Then, “he” stomps on the gas making the auto jump, skip, and spin out, all for fun. It’s as if “he” and the autos are somehow a single entity. Somehow, this picture helps me remember that (αυτος) and “He” mean the same thing.

In the text, what this does is indicate that Paul’s understanding is that those gifted with ministry gifts are given in order to build up the entire Body of Christ into His fullness.[[10]](#footnote-10) Ephesians 4:11 ~

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,…[[11]](#footnote-11)

The αὐτός (He) of verse 11 picks up the αὐτός of verse 10;[[12]](#footnote-12)

10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)[[13]](#footnote-13)

Verse 10 follows verse 8 which contains a quote from Psalm 68:18 ~

18 You have ascended on high,

You have led captivity captive;

You have received gifts among men,

Even *from* the rebellious,

That the Lord God might dwell *there*.[[14]](#footnote-14)

It says that “He,” referring to Jesus, “gave” (εδωκεν),[[15]](#footnote-15) which is a third person singular verb. “He gave.” This “giving” is mysteriously interwoven with the goal of Jesus pervading the entire creation with His presence and His rule.[[16]](#footnote-16) What this accomplishes is to make plain that the “You” the Psalm speaks of is no one less that the exalted Christ who fills the universe.[[17]](#footnote-17) With this background, the purpose of the gifts are then explained.[[18]](#footnote-18)

**Background ~**

So, let’s take a step back and look at our full text; Ephesians 4:11-16 ~

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.[[19]](#footnote-19)

Notice that Christ has given these ministries as a part of His overall purposes; that purpose is nothing less than His filling all things.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Now, the commentaries all go into great detail as they examine the specifics of each ministry. Frankly, I’m not that interested in those details. If one of these is your area of gifting, you will flesh out the specifics for yourself. I’m much more interested in the purpose of these gifts collectively, along with the purpose other spiritual gifts we find in other places in the New Testament.

The purpose is… building up, equipping, edifying, *someone else*. It’s actually not about us at all. Through the work of the Spirit in our lives, through the Spiritual Gifts that He gives, Christians should be made mature, complete, even perfect.[[21]](#footnote-21) Ephesians 4:12-13 ~

… 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;…[[22]](#footnote-22)

Now, in the Old Testament we find the Spirit endowing people with the power to do what was required of them.[[23]](#footnote-23) One example from among many include Judges 6:33-34 ~

34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.[[24]](#footnote-24)

The difference is that, in general, the Spirit fell on people for a specific task or mission, and then withdrew. Now, today, we have a different situation, now He comes and remains on those who belong to Jesus; John 15:26-27 ~

26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.[[25]](#footnote-25)

This is not a momentary, or task specific, occurrence. Whether you are aware of it or not, the Spirit is resident within you (assuming you do belong to Jesus); Romans 8:9 ~

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.[[26]](#footnote-26)

**Given ~**

The Christian faith is simply laced with surprises… gifts that God gives to His children. What’s more, they’re tailor made for each one of us, in fact uniquely suited for us.

A young girl, just turning 13, was telling a friend about all the Christmas gifts that she had received. She concluded the recital with, “I also got a diary. It’s a really nice diary… very expensive. The only thing is, it’s a little late in my life to start using a diary. Everything important has pretty well happened already.”[[27]](#footnote-27)

God gives gifts, and they’re never too late, they always fit perfectly, and they’re intended to be used. It starts with God *giving* Jesus Christ to the Church as the Head over it; Colossians 1:18 ~

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.[[28]](#footnote-28)

The Church, therefore, with Jesus as its Head, becomes His instrument in carrying out His purposes in the world.[[29]](#footnote-29) Jesus, in turn, then gives; Ephesians 4:11 ~

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,…[[30]](#footnote-30)

In context, the identity of the giver is revealed to be Jesus Himself; whose rule is universal in nature.[[31]](#footnote-31) By His Spirit He is active in the Church, granting what is necessary for the equipping of His people.[[32]](#footnote-32) 1 Corinthians 14:2 ~

12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts, let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel.[[33]](#footnote-33)

Our passage says that Jesus gave gifts, the word “gave” (εδωκεν)[[34]](#footnote-34) is a verb in the active voice, indicative mood, third person, singular. In this sense it means that He, Jesus, gave something to someone.[[35]](#footnote-35) He gave individuals specific giftings. He supplied that which is necessary to accomplish His purposes.[[36]](#footnote-36)

The text lists these people by ministry; Ephesians 4:11-12 ~

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,[[37]](#footnote-37)

**The Purpose ~**

This all has a purpose. Notice what the text says; Ephesians 4:12a ~

… 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,…[[38]](#footnote-38)

The objective for which the gifts are bestowed is spiritual growth… culminating in spiritual maturity… which leads to ministry.[[39]](#footnote-39)

Note that bishops and deacons are not mentioned in this list, although they are listed in other places.[[40]](#footnote-40) This points out that the lists are not comprehensive, and were not intended to be comprehensive. There were a variety of ministries and structures within the early church[[41]](#footnote-41) that did not require precise written descriptions since the readers were already familiar with the details.

What is it that the exalted Christ gave to the Church? He gave, and gives, people, people who proclaim the word and lead the Church.[[42]](#footnote-42) There’s a difference between this passage and the passages dealing with spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.[[43]](#footnote-43) In Romans and 1 Corinthians, the spiritual gifts are ministries or functions within the Church.[[44]](#footnote-44)

Here, in Ephesians 4, the focus is narrower as it examines specific individuals ministering the word.[[45]](#footnote-45) The goal is this; that we carry out the work as Christ’s servants. In doing so we promote the great work of evangelism resulting in salvations, followed by mentoring, followed by discipling people to be reproducing followers of Jesus.[[46]](#footnote-46)

Look again at Ephesians 4:12-13 ~

… 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;…[[47]](#footnote-47)

The point is that we, the Church, are to be prepared for the work of ministry. We, each one of us individually and collectively, are called to the work of ministry.[[48]](#footnote-48) The aim of the “ministry” is preparing Christians, through the ministers within the Church, to minister according to their own calling.[[49]](#footnote-49)

**God’s Gift to the Church ~**

One father bravely suggested to his family that, this year, the family get him a gift that the whole family could get something out of. After much discussion, they bought him a wallet.[[50]](#footnote-50)

This is pretty much what God did when He gave Jesus to the Church. The entire family of God receives something through the gift God gives. Now Jesus, the one who has been given to the Church as our cosmic Lord, provides what’s needed to equip it fully for its tasks.[[51]](#footnote-51)

This is both interesting, challenging, and a little disconcerting. Paul, here, is asserting that those gifted to serve as ministers to the church are actually gifts given for the Church by the exalted Christ.[[52]](#footnote-52) This will serve to produce Christ-followers who will bring Him honor; Ephesians 4:13 ~

… 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;…[[53]](#footnote-53)

This statement marks the duration of the Church’s ministry.[[54]](#footnote-54) It will continue until we are all built up to be image bearers of Christ. In doing so we will be supernaturally united in the faith. It’s described this way, in Ephesians 4:4-6 ~

4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.[[55]](#footnote-55)

We, the Church, have a universal role as a pledge of the universe’s ultimate unity, which can and will be found only in Christ.[[56]](#footnote-56) In carrying out our service, each of the Saints plays a part in building up the body.[[57]](#footnote-57) Every follower of Jesus is to be brought to a state of completion.[[58]](#footnote-58)

The idea of organic completeness is expressed through each of us coming to completeness as members of the Body of Christ.[[59]](#footnote-59) This will be accomplished as the ministers Christ has given exercise their ministries.[[60]](#footnote-60) We really are God’s gift to the Church. But here’s the catch, “we” isn’t the pastor, it isn’t the elders, it is each one of us. We have tasks assigned to us; Ephesians 2:10 ~

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.[[61]](#footnote-61)

One byproduct of completing these tasks is that those around us will be built up, be made mature, and become more like Jesus. Those called to minister have been given a work to carry out.[[62]](#footnote-62) I say it again; it’s tempting to see this as being limited to those offices listed in our text; Ephesians 4:11 ~

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,…[[63]](#footnote-63)

Certainly these ministries are being emphasized here… but it does not end with these specific ministries; 1 Peter 2:9 ~

9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;…[[64]](#footnote-64)

Each of us are called to serve, each of us have a ministry that requires sacrificial service for building up the Body of Christ. We find this statement about the use of the Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:4 ~

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all:…*[[65]](#footnote-65)

Here in Ephesians, the ministers noted are seen as being engaged in (διακονία) “service.”[[66]](#footnote-66) The desired objective for all of this activity is given in Ephesians 4:15 ~

… 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—…[[67]](#footnote-67)

**Truth ~**

Truth will always be the defining element of the Christian life, our stock and trade is truth.[[68]](#footnote-68) John 16:13 ~

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority,* but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.[[69]](#footnote-69)

However, this truth must be, and will be, expressed in love.[[70]](#footnote-70) Good news delivered harshly is not good news.[[71]](#footnote-71) It’s a fine line; lean too far into the truth and you become rigid, judgmental, harsh, and ugly. You, in fact, become a Pharisee.

On the other hand, lean too far into love, and all standards of moral purity are lost. Everything will be accepted in the name of love, forgetting that God is a holy God and He calls us to be holy as well. 1 Peter 1:13-16 ~

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, 16 because it is written, *“Be holy, for I am holy.”*[[72]](#footnote-72)

Paul describes the growth that’s the result of the exercise of our spiritual gifts, and of our individual ministries, as expressions of truth and love, whether it be through teaching, exhortation, service, faith, or whatever it may be.[[73]](#footnote-73)

**Love ~**

The result is that our spiritual growth will, necessarily, bring us into a closer union with Christ.[[74]](#footnote-74) The objective always points us back to Christ; Ephesians 4:16 ~

… 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.[[75]](#footnote-75)

With this, we find that Jesus’ giving of gifts to the Church is for the purpose of growing toward the goal of being Christ-like.[[76]](#footnote-76) This requires all of us, everyone, grasping the vision. Each of us who belong to Jesus has been given grace in various proportions.[[77]](#footnote-77) That’s not intended to be for your own gratification or entertainment. It has a much higher purpose.

In the Church we will find babes in Christ, as well as people still young in the faith, those who are mature are present, and finally those who have become old followers,[[78]](#footnote-78) these are people who believe that the best is now in the past. I need to tell you that this does not have to be true.

Note that these spiritual ages have nothing to do with your chronological age, it has everything to do with who you understand yourself to be in Christ. Some will have a sharp intellect, others will have strong faith, there will be those who have a warm love, others will excel in either passive or active virtues.[[79]](#footnote-79)

Regardless, in a Church following Christ closely, we will be joined together, we will be learning to work with, and for, each other.[[80]](#footnote-80) We will recognize and honor the various gifts others have but that are not ours. There will be a spiritual communism (so to speak), for we are all one spiritual body, and each gift is given for the benefit of all in the Church.[[81]](#footnote-81)

In fact, we will find that we are operating out of a motive of love; Ephesians 4:16 ~

… 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.[[82]](#footnote-82)

**Application:**

Now, where do we go with this? The New Year is looming ahead of us. It can be our biggest and most exciting adventure, or it can be terrifying. The choice is yours. Our text today stresses that every member of the Body of Christ plays a part. Along with this is the necessity of love being expressed practically if we’re to function as Christ intends.[[83]](#footnote-83)

What are your plans for 2022? For myself, I intend to make this passage my passage for the year, and I intend to seek to obey it on a moment by moment basis; Galatians 5:25 ~

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.[[84]](#footnote-84)

Now, that’s a nice short passage. You should be able to memorize it in just a few minutes of concentration. “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” But… that’s not really what I’m talking about.

I’m not asking you to memorize some text, the intent is not more cranial activity. The intent is spiritual in nature. I’m asking you to choose to do what it says. “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” I’m asking you to allow the Spirit of God to change you, to change your life, to redirect what you’re doing and where you place your priorities.

And when you do, you will discover this is the hardest thing you’ve ever tried to do, and the easiest. That’s because you cannot do it, only Jesus can. It’s hard when you’re working at it. It’s easy when you simply surrender and allow Him to do what you can never do. This is the great mystery of the Christian faith; Colossians 1:27 ~

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.[[85]](#footnote-85)

The reality of that mystery will change everything. That’s a New Year resolution worth making, and worth keeping. When you fail, think it over, surrender again, and allow the life of Jesus to be lived through you again.

1. Michael Hodgin, *1001 More Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking*, (ZondervanPublishingHouse, Grand Rapids, MI.: 1998), [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [The New King James Version](https://ref.ly/logosres/nkjv?ref=BibleNKJV.Eph4.7&off=16&ctx=Spiritual+Gifts%250A~7%25C2%25A0But+i%25EF%25BB%25BFto+each+one+of+u) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Eph 4:7–16. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Andrew T. Lincoln, [Ephesians](https://ref.ly/logosres/wbc42?ref=Bible.Eph4.1-16&off=159455&ctx=f+this+God+himself.%250A~The+second+section+o), vol. 42, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1990), 265. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., [Ephesians](https://ref.ly/logosres/tpc46b?ref=Bible.Eph4.11&off=170&ctx=tic)+bestowed+them.+~The+organization+of+), The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 148. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [The New King James Version](https://ref.ly/logosres/nkjv?ref=BibleNKJV.Eph4.11&off=0&ctx=t+fill+all+things.)%250A~11%25C2%25A0And+He+Himself+ga) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Eph 4:11. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Thomas Newberry and George Ricker Berry, [The Interlinear Literal Translation of the Greek New Testament](https://ref.ly/logosres/tr1550int?ref=Bible.Eph4.11&off=0&ctx=%25CE%25B1+%25CF%2580%25CE%25BB%25CE%25B7%25CF%2581%25CF%2589%25CF%2583%25CE%25B7+%25CF%2584%25CE%25B1+%25CF%2580%25CE%25B1%25CE%25BD%25CF%2584%25CE%25B1+%250A~11+%25CE%25BA%25CE%25B1%25CE%25B9+%25CE%25B1%25CF%2585%25CF%2584%25CE%25BF%25CF%2582+%25CE%25B5%25CE%25B4%25CF%2589%25CE%25BA%25CE%25B5%25CE%25BD+) (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2004), Eph 4:11. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Michael S. Heiser and Vincent M. Setterholm, [Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology](https://ref.ly/logosres/morphglosses?ref=morph-field.lbs-morph+el.conj-subtype.connective&off=13&ctx=connective+%25E2%2580%2594+~A+conjunction+that+connects) (Lexham Press, 2013; 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. John Peter Lange et al., [A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures](https://ref.ly/logosres/lange70eph?ref=Bible.Eph4.11&off=76&ctx=+%25CE%25B1%25CF%2585%25CC%2593%25CF%2584%25CE%25BF%25CC%2580%25CF%2582+%25CE%25B5%25CC%2593%25CC%2581%25CE%25B4%25CF%2589%25CE%25BA%25CE%25B5%25CE%25BD%255D.%25E2%2580%2594~%25E2%2580%259CAnd%25E2%2580%259D+joins+with+wha) (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2008), 149. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Thomas Newberry and George Ricker Berry, [The Interlinear Literal Translation of the Greek New Testament](https://ref.ly/logosres/tr1550int?ref=Bible.Eph4.11&off=7&ctx=%25CF%2583%25CE%25B7+%25CF%2584%25CE%25B1+%25CF%2580%25CE%25B1%25CE%25BD%25CF%2584%25CE%25B1+%250A11+%25CE%25BA%25CE%25B1%25CE%25B9+~%25CE%25B1%25CF%2585%25CF%2584%25CE%25BF%25CF%2582+%25CE%25B5%25CE%25B4%25CF%2589%25CE%25BA%25CE%25B5%25CE%25BD+%25CF%2584%25CE%25BF%25CF%2585%25CF%2582+%25CE%25BC%25CE%25B5) (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2004), Eph 4:11. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Andrew T. Lincoln, [Ephesians](https://ref.ly/logosres/wbc42?ref=Bible.Eph4.12&off=648&ctx=ught+to+completion.+~The+link+with+the+pr), vol. 42, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1990), 248. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [The New King James Version](https://ref.ly/logosres/nkjv?ref=BibleNKJV.Eph4.11&off=0&ctx=t+fill+all+things.)%250A~11%25C2%25A0And+He+Himself+ga) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Eph 4:11. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Andrew T. Lincoln, [Ephesians](https://ref.ly/logosres/wbc42?ref=Bible.Eph4.12&off=52&ctx=t+was+he+who+gave.%25E2%2580%259D+~The+%25CE%25B1%25CF%2585%25CC%2593%25CF%2584%25CE%25BF%25CC%2581%25CF%2582+picks+up), vol. 42, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1990), 248. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
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83. Andrew T. Lincoln, [Ephesians](https://ref.ly/logosres/wbc42?ref=Bible.Eph4.1-16&off=156059&ctx=ghtly+belong+to+it.+~The+appeal+stresses+), vol. 42, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1990), 264. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. [The New King James Version](https://ref.ly/logosres/nkjv?ref=BibleNKJV.Ga5.25&off=0&ctx=ssions+and+desires.+~25%25C2%25A0g%25EF%25BB%25BFIf+we+live+in+t) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ga 5:25. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. [The New King James Version](https://ref.ly/logosres/nkjv?ref=BibleNKJV.Col1.27&off=0&ctx=aled+to+His+saints.+~27%25C2%25A0g%25EF%25BB%25BFTo+them+God+wil) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Col 1:27. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)