

I Corinthians

(29) The Foundation of the Church

1 Cor 12:27-31

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And now I will show you the most excellent way.
NIV

The object of the lesson...12:27

After the 'object lesson' (12:14-26), what is the *real* lesson? **12:27**

What are some basic truths contained in this verse?

Why might Paul make this point at the beginning of this passage? 12:27

What portion of this passage (12:1-27) has impacted you most? Why?

The foundation of the church...12:28a

What are the first (3) positions (gifted men) listed in the church? 12:28a; Eph.4:11

How are believers described in **IPet.2:5a**?; ICor.3:16 And Jesus Christ? **IPet.2:4-6**

After the Corner Stone is in place, what's next in the building? **Eph.2:19-22; Rev.21:10-14**

And what was one *essential function* of the Apostles and prophets? **Eph.3:1-9**

So in simple terms, what were the Apostles and prophets conveying? **IIPet.1:12-21, 3:14-18**

And how did the early church *KNOW* the mysteries were from God? **IICor.12:12; Heb.2:3-4**

What does *Apostle* mean? And *Prophet*? What are these positions similar to? See **Zech.1:1-4**

How do these (2) positions/functions differ from 'teachers'? see Eph.4:11

After the *Apostolic truths are written down*, what passes away? **Rev.22:18**

Next: The Gifts that grow, plus the best of all... 12:28b-31

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The object of the lesson...12:27

After the 'object lesson' (12:14-26), what is the *real* lesson? **12:27**

Every believer is part (a member) of the body of Christ. All believers comprise His body!

What are some basic truths contained in this verse?

1) The body of Christ on this earth is comprised of believers. 2) All/only believers!

Why might Paul make this point at the beginning of this passage? 12:27

To emphasize the reality of our personal position in the body of Christ. Important!

What portion of this passage (12:1-27) has impacted you most? Why?

The foundation of the church...12:28a

What are the first (3) positions (gifted men) listed in the church? 12:28a; Eph.4:11

1) Apostles 2) prophets 3) teachers. NOTE: These all are appointed by God. His work.

How are believers described in **IPet.2:5a**? ICor.3:16 And Jesus Christ? **IPet.2:4-6**

We are 'living stones' in God's spiritual house. HE is the Choice Stone, Corner Stone.

After the Corner Stone is in place, what's next in the building? **Eph.2:19-22; Rev.21:10-14**

The foundation of the building (Church) is laid. This is the Apostles and prophets.

And what was one *essential function* of the Apostles and prophets? **Eph.3:1-9**

It was to reveal the mysteries of God, hidden in the past, now revealed by the Spirit...

So in simple terms, what were the Apostles and prophets conveying? **IIPet.1:12-21, 3:14-18**

This was new Scripture, that is the New Testament. Given by the Holy Spirit thru them.

And how did the early church *KNOW* the mysteries were from God? **IICor.12:12; Heb.2:3-4**

God confirmed them by signs/wonders/various miracles/gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What does *Apostle* mean? And *Prophet*? What are these positions similar to? See **Zech.1:1-4**

Apostle='one sent forth'. Prophet='one who speaks forth'. Like 'thus saith the Lord'.

How do these (2) positions/functions differ from 'teachers'? see Eph.4:11

Apostles/Prophets speak new truth directly from God. In the OT, 'thus saith the Lord'

Teachers teach existing truth (spoken/written) by Apostles/Prophets, both OT and NT.

After the *Apostolic truths are written down*, what passes away? **Rev.22:18**

The position of Apostle/Prophet and the sign gifts that confirmed them. Now, Scripture

Next: The Gifts that grow, plus the best of all... 12:28b-31