



Slide #1

Part #3 of *Distinctions in Corporate Gifts* considers a number of misconceptions the church holds regarding prophets, preachers, and teachers. In each case, an assertion is compared side-by-side with biblical reality.

Slide #2

First, it is claimed that *preachers are equivalent to prophets*.

The premise of this *assertion* is based on two factors. *First*, prophets edify the body and, *second*, preachers build up (edify) the body. Thus, the *conclusion* is that preachers are equivalent to prophets. Support for this viewpoint is centered on the term *edification*, indicating that prophets edify the church (1 Cor 14:3 & 4). Then in Ephesians 4:12, preachers (or, in this case, referring to pastors) likewise build up (edify) the church. Since the ministry of prophets and preachers are supposedly identical, they are taken to be equivalent.

But does this claim match with biblical reality?

This assertion has two major *problems*. *First*, it is assumed that prophesy is valid or normative for the church today. However, this contradicts the temporary aspect of the prophet's foundational ministry. *Second*, the body through "the work of service" builds itself up (Eph 4:12 & 16). The body builds itself up (v 16) only if "the work of service" (v 12) occurs, in a cause and effect manner.

The *Biblical Position*: the corporate gifts' ministries are to equip the body to function so that, through the proper functioning of the body ["the work of service" (Eph 4:12)], the body builds itself up (v 16).

Distinctions in Corporate Gifts Part #3 Misconceptions

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PREACHERS EQUIVALENT TO PROPHETS

ASSERTION	REALITY
<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Premise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prophets edified the body Preachers build up the body</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Conclusion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preacher = Prophets</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Support</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Cor 14:3 One who prophesies speaks to men for edification, exhortation, and consolation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Cor 14:4 One who prophesies edifies the church.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eph 4:11-12 He gave some...as apostles...as prophets... as pastors and teachers...to the building up [edification] of the body.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Assertion's Problem</p> <p>1— Assuming prophesy is valid or normative for today 2— Body properly functioning [the work of service] edifies [builds up] itself</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Position</p> <p>The corporate gifts' ministries are to equip the body to function so that, through the proper functioning of the body [work of service (v 12)], the body builds itself up (v 16).</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Support</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eph 4:11-12 He gave some...as apostles...as prophets... as pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up [edification] of the body.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eph 4:16 The whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up [edification] of itself in love.</p>

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Slide #3

Second, it is maintained that *preaching is equivalent to forthtelling*.

The premise of this *assertion* is based on three factors: *first*, prophets were foretellers, revealing future things, and forthtellers, providing godly principles and practices for daily living. *Second*, forthtelling is a special prompting from God, being akin to the “anointing issue” previously addressed [Part 2, slide 13]. *Third*, preachers are prophets, as discussed in Misconception #1 above, or at least like prophets in this aspect of ministry. The *conclusion*: preaching is equivalent to forthtelling, which is only supported theologically.

But does this claim match with biblical reality?

The premise has two major *problems*.

First, claiming that a preacher receives special “prompting” from God makes the preacher a mediator between God and believers.

Secondly, authority rests with “the person” who receives revelation from God rather than with a plurality of elders recognized with biblical knowledge, ministry skills, and maturity in Christ [see Slide #6 of *Office of Elder*, Part 1].

The *Biblical Position*: New Testament prophets received “fresh” direct revelation from God (1 Cor 14:30); however, since the prophetic gift was foundational for the church, that gift is not normative for today. The “God breathed” revelation (2 Tim 3:16-17) that is needed for godly living has already been provided.

PREACHING EQUIVALENT TO FORTHTELLING

ASSERTION	REALITY
<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Premise</p> <p>Prophets were foretellers & forthtellers Forthtelling is from special prompting Preachers are Prophets</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Conclusion</p> <p>Preaching = Forthtelling</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Theological Support</p> <p>Special "prompting" of God provides the preacher with a revealed "message from God" to motivate the church to godly living. Foretelling—typically revealing future judgments—is assumed not normative for today. Forthtelling—instructing godly principles and practices for daily living—is assumed normative for today.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Assertion's Problem</p> <p>1— Asserting that a preacher receives some special "prompting" from God makes that one a mediator between God and believers. 2— Authority rests with the person who receives revelation from God rather than with a plurality of elders recognized with biblical knowledge, ministry skills, and maturity in Christ.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Position</p> <p>New Testament Prophets received "fresh" direct revelation from God (1 Cor 14:30); however since the prophetic gift was foundational for the infant church, that gift is not normative for today. The "God breathed" revelation (2 Tim 3:16-17) that is need for godly living has already been provided.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Support</p> <p>2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction [training] in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work.</p>

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Slide #4

Third, it is stated that *preachers are different from teachers*.

The premise of this *assertion* is based on two factors. *First*, preachers exhort and motivate large groups typically from a pulpit or platform. *Second*, teachers teach by instructing smaller groups of believers. Multiple texts indicate a difference between preaching and teaching (e.g., 1 Tim 4:13; 5:17; 6:2). The *conclusion*: preachers to large groups are different from teachers to small groups.

But does this claim match with biblical reality?

This premise has three major *problems*. *First*, it neglects to associate heralding with preaching by evangelists (Acts 8:5). *Second*, equating exhortation exclusively with the pulpit or platform ministry does not account for believers’ responsibility “to exhort” one

PREACHERS DIFFERENT FROM TEACHERS

ASSERTION	REALITY
<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Premise</p> <p>Preachers exhort—motivate—large groups Teachers teach—instruct—small groups</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Conclusion</p> <p>Preachers ≠ Teachers</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Support</p> <p>1 Tim 4:13 Give attention to the <i>public</i> reading of <i>Scripture</i>, to exhortation [preaching] and teaching. 1 Tim 5:17 Especially those who work hard at preaching [word] and teaching [doctrine]. 1 Tim 6:2 Teach and preach [exhort] these <i>principles</i>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Assertion's Problem</p> <p>1— Not associating preaching with heralding 2— Equating exhortation exclusively with the pulpit/platform ministry 3— Not associating motivation in large and small gatherings with pastor-teachers</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Position</p> <p>Hearlding is preaching the good news to the lost, while teaching is instructing and modeling the word to the saved. Teachers are to motivate believers to obey God's word, particularly the pastor-teachers in large or small-group settings.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e67e22; font-weight: bold;">Biblical Support</p> <p>Acts 8:4-5 Those scattered went about evangelizing the word...and Philip (the evangelist) went... heralding Christ. Heb 10:25 Not forsaking our own assembling together... encouraging [exhorting] one another. Matt 28:20 Teaching them to obey all I commanded you.</p>

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another (Heb 10:25). In fact, Paul tells Timothy to both “teach and exhort” (1 Tim 4:13 & 6:2). *Third*, motivation is not limited of large gatherings; rather in both large and small-group settings each believer is to teach, involving motivation, those behind them in their journey in the Lord “to obey all [Christ] commanded” (Matt 28:20). Particularly this is true for the pastor-teachers in local bodies of believers. [Note: 1 Timothy 5:17 is discussed in-depth in *Office of Elder*, Part #2. The verse addresses “those who toil in word and doctrine” and does not address the current Misconception under consideration.]

The *Biblical Position*: Heralding is preaching the good news to the lost, while teaching is instructing and modeling the Word to the saved. Teachers are to motivate believers to obey God’s word, particularly the pastor-teachers in large and small-group settings.

Slide #5

The misconceptions addressed in Part #3 of *Distinctions in Corporate Gifts* provides biblical reality:

- Preachers ≠ Prophets
- Preaching ≠ Forthtelling
- Preaching = Heralding
- Pastor-Teachers = Teachers
- Teachers = Motivate
- Teaching = Instructing & Modeling

BIBLICAL REALITY

- Preachers ≠ Prophets
- Preaching ≠ Forthtelling
- Preaching = Hearlding
- Pastor-Teachers = Teachers
- Teachers = Motivate
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