



# Distinctions in Corporate Gifts

## *Part #3*

# Misconceptions



## PREACHERS EQUIVALENT TO PROPHETS

### ASSERTION

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#### Premise

Prophets edified the body  
Preachers build up the body

#### Conclusion

Preacher = Prophets

#### Biblical Support

1 Cor 14:3

One who prophesies speaks to men for edification, exhortation, and consolation.

1 Cor 14:4

One who prophesies edifies the church.

Eph 4:11-12

He gave some...as apostles...as prophets... as pastors and teachers...to the building up [edification] of the body.

### REALITY

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#### Assertion's Problem

- 1—Assuming prophesy is valid or normative for today
- 2—Body properly functioning [the work of service] edifies [builds up] itself

#### Biblical Position

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).

#### Biblical Support

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.

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.

## PREACHING EQUIVALENT TO FORTHTELLING

### ASSERTION

#### Premise

Prophets were foretellers & forthtellers  
Forthtelling is from special prompting  
Preachers are Prophets

#### Conclusion

Preaching = Forthtelling

#### Theological Support

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.

### REALITY

#### Assertion's Problem

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.

#### Biblical Position

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.

#### Biblical Support

##### 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.

## PREACHERS DIFFERENT FROM TEACHERS

### ASSERTION

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#### Premise

Preachers exhort–motivate–large groups  
Teachers teach–instruct–small groups

#### Conclusion

Preachers ≠ Teachers

#### Biblical Support

1 Tim 4:13

Give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, 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 *principles*.

### REALITY

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#### Assertion's Problem

- 1—Not associating preaching with hearlding
- 2—Equating exhortation exclusively with the pulpit/platform ministry
- 3—Not associating motivation in large and small gatherings with pastor-teachers

#### Biblical Position

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 and small-group settings.

#### Biblical Support

Acts 8:4-5

Those scattered went about evangelizing the word...and Philip (the evangelist) went... hearlding 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.

## **BIBLICAL REALITY**

**Preachers ≠ Prophets**

**Preaching ≠ Forthtelling**

**Preaching = Hearlding**

**Pastor-Teachers = Teachers**

**Teachers = Motivate**

**Teaching = Instructing & Modeling**