

## I. Introducing the subject

Function is the term used to describe what we do in any part of our societal attachments. It is applied in this talk to our lives in the fellowship of believers. The "church" is likened to a body in 1 Corinthians 12 and observations are made concerning the ear, the eye, the foot, etc. A healthy body is at its best when all of the members are healthy and performing as they are supposed to perform. That is true of the human body, a legislative body, or, in this case, a spiritual body. We are told in 1 Corinthians 12 that every member of the body is needed...yes, necessary. And that is true of the universal church, I believe, but also very true of the immediate or local company. So we look to see what practical authority the Word of God brings to this aspect of our thinking.

## II. Discussion: We will work out of 1 Peter 4:10 as a key verse showing most of the emphases and illustrate this with other Scriptures.

- A. "As every man has received the gift"....Peter is stressing the fact that every person in the fellowship is gifted in some way to make the body complete. Similar references are found in Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Corinthians 12. The gift as noted in 1 Cor 12:7 is the manifestation of the Spirit and the point is that as a redeemed person you belong to God and to His people and you are equipped in some measure to work for the health of the body. The "offices", please note, are not gifts but serving areas for those who are gifted in particular ways to serve and administer.
- B. "Even so, minister the same one to another:" The gifts are given for the health of the whole and whatever spiritual ability is given to you it is given that you might share it with others. Knowing one's gift is a matter for another discussion but basically it must be determined: what one can do  
how can one exercise that trait  
is the party willing and desirous to do so.  
As with many things, there are some gifts that are more observable and some less. The former attract many people while the latter may be overlooked. Our desire from 1 Cor 12:31 is to seek those things that will best aid the body and to exercise them with love.