

C. "As good stewards of the grace of God". What is given us is a gift from God. We are told in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that what is required in stewards is that one be faithful. That is what is asked of us...that we would see what God has enabled us to contribute to the body and be faithful in doing that very thing, The grace of God is styled "manifold" meaning that the manifestation of it is on many lines. Therefore we should be seeking the health of the body by performing whatever we are able to perform...staying in order and under the government of God and the fellowship where we worship.

III. Conclusion: The practical authority for our function is that we should all be serving the testimony and edifying one another in any way God has enabled us. One's particular gifts may seem small but they are there and we are losers if we do nothing. But be sure it is your gift you wish to exercise and not that of someone else or of another gift you wish you had. Sometimes one has to take the word of the fellowship as to what one's gift is and that may be hard if one's mind is set on something else. But let every believer execute gift as able and it may well be that the Lord will add more gifts, provide more opportunities, or simply let one see how the body is blessed by having that person's fellowship and exercise.

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MESSAGE # 6: AUTHORITY IN PERSONAL DIFFERENCES AND/OR PREFERENCES

Biblical Passages: Ephesians 4:30-32

I Introducing the Subject:

It is impossible to mention or even crudely guess at the number of problems that come to the life of a fellowship where believers are not willing to let the practical authority of the Word of God deal with these matters. Very often the troubles that come are not major troubles at all but may well turn into that when the Biblical truth is ignored. Our text in Ephesians 4 puts down a solid base for the authority of the Word of God in handling all such matters. In a nutshell we should be concerned that we do not grieve the Spirit, that we put away hurtful things, and that we practice being kind and forgiving. Within those parameters there is peace in any fellowship but when they are breached it is not long until fighting and striving take over.