

Coaching Staff

Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 8:26-40; John 21:15-17

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Football is the consummate team sport!
- The Three “teams” of the Philadelphia Eagles
- Functioning Church is like a football team.

The Coaching Staff of the Church

A. General Observations about the “Coaching Staff”

- Ephesians 4:11-- *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”*
 - Ephesians 4:7-- *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”*
1. In Ephesians 4:11, not the “office” but “gift” in view
 2. Apostles and Prophets are linked together...
 - a. Both are foundational gifts—Ephesians 2:19-20
 - Ephesians 2:19-20-- *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”*
 - b. Both received revelation from God—Ephesians 3:5
 - Ephesians 3:2-5-- *“If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation, He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.”*
 - Ephesians 4:6-- *“that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.”*

B. Specific Observations about “Coaching Staff”

1. **Gift of Apostle** ... *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles...”*
 - a. Definition—*“one sent out with a message”*
 - b. Range—Not limited to the 12
 - Romans 15:20-- *“preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation.”*
 - 2 Corinthians 12:12-- *“Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty acts.”*
 - c. Modified—Missionary Gift?
2. **Gift of Prophet**... *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets.”*
 - a. Definition—spokesperson and visionary for God
 - b. NT Example—Agabus—Acts 11 and 21
 - c. Not needed today—have “words of the prophet” in NT
 - 2 Peter 2:19-- *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”*
 - 2 Peter 2:20-21-- *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”*
3. **Gift of Evangelist**
 - a. Definition: *“God given ability to effectively communicate the message of Christ to unbelievers so that they respond in faith and move toward discipleship”*
 - b. New Testament Example: Philip Acts 8:26-40
 - Acts 8:26-40-- *“Now the angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, ‘Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ This is desert. So, he arose and went. A*

behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near and overtake his chariot.' SO Philip ran to him, and heard hi reading the prophet Isaiah and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said to him, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this; 'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice as taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.' So the eunuch answered Philip and said, 'I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or some other man?' Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea."

- 1) Strong, inner compulsion to share the gospel (v. 26, 29)
 - Act 8:26-- "An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is desert."
 - Acts 8:29-- "Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near and overtake his chariot.'"
- 2) Led by the Spirit to prepared people (v. 27)
- 3) Begins where the person is and leads them to Christ

c. Eight Evaluative Statements—Gift of Evangelism

- 1) I seek out unbelievers to present the message of Christ to them.
- 2) I like to look for different ways--new techniques to effectively share my faith.
- 3) Often when I share the gospel, people desire to know more about a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 4) I am so concerned about the lost that I constantly feel motivated or pressure to share my faith and to invite people to accept Jesus.
- 5) My conversations with unbelievers often seem to include spiritual matters.
- 6) I like people around me to know that I am a Christian, and hope that they will ask me about my relationship with Christ
- 7) When I share my testimony and God's plan of salvation, people often respond in faith.
- 8) I look for opportunities to build relationships with non-churched people.

4. **The Gift of Pastor-Teacher**

- a. Definition: "God-given ability to guide, care for, and nurture individuals as they grow in their faith."
- b. NT Example: Peter John 21:15-17
 - John 21:15-17-- "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed My lambs.' He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Tend My sheep.' He said to him the third time 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed My Sheep.'"
 - 1) Must be filled with love for Christ.
 - 2) Enjoys sharing God's Word with others
 - 3) Enjoys caring for the spiritual needs of others
- c. Primary Task: "to equip the saints for the work of the ministry"
 - Ephesians 4:12-- "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ."
 - Hebrews 13:20-21-- "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every

good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen!"

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17-- *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
- Acts 6:4-- *"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

d. Eight Definitive Statements—Gift of Pastor-Teacher

- 1) I desire and need long term, intimate spiritual relationships with others in the Church.
- 2) I am willing to spend much time caring for and nurturing a group of people.
- 3) I like to patiently and responsibly nurture others spiritual growth..
- 4) I am willing to renounce my own personal interests for the sake of others.
- 5) I enjoy providing guidance and general oversight for a few Christians.
- 6) I have compassion for wandering believers and a desire to protect them.
- 7) I care so much for people that I enjoy walking through life with a small group of believers, leading them along the way.
- 8) Others have told me how much they have appreciated my long-term support and concern for them.