You Are A Gift
The average American church: 43% involved in volunteer ministries
The top 10% of churches engage 72% of attenders in some service
How do you think we are doing in terms of serving the body?
7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, And he gave gifts to men.”
(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?)
He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)
11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ
13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes,
15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint
with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
"ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men"?
A reference to Psalm 68 and probably Roman custom
Ascended and “descended into the lower regions of the earth”?
What about the Apostles’ Creed?
The gifts: “the Apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers”
Are all five (four?) of these still operative?
Is this list exhaustive?
... miracles, gifts of healing, helping, administrating, various kinds of tongues 1 Cor. 12:28
To what end?
To: equip the saints for the work of ministry to build up the body 4:12
To: promote unity; knowledge of Christ; spiritual maturity 4:13
To: equip us to resist false doctrine 4:14
To: make the body grow, being built up in love. 4:15-16
But pastor, I don’t want that guy sitting next to me edifying me!
There is no way that guy is going to help me look more like Jesus!
So many reasons this seems like a dumb idea.
Too many mistakes
We don’t have formal training
People won’t appreciate my effort
Isn’t this what you pastors get paid to do?