

Sermon 讲道信息
 August 八月 17, 2025
 Ephesians 以弗所书 4:7-16
 The Giver and the Gifts 送礼者与礼物

I would like to do a quick survey. Please put your hand up if you love to receive gifts. Hands up! Do you love to receive gifts? 我想做一个快速调查。如果你喜欢收礼物，请举手。你喜欢收到礼物吗？请举手！

Now, how many would put your hand up if I ask “Do you love to give gifts”? Some of us might not be so sure!

现在,如果我问“你爱送礼物吗？”会有多少人举手呢？我们中间有些人可能不太确定！

It's no surprise that most of us love to receive gifts, but giving gifts is another matter.

我们大多数人都喜欢收到礼物，这并不奇怪，但送礼物则是另一回事。

I must admit that while I love to receive gifts, I can't truthfully say that I love to give gifts. I like to give gifts, but I can't say I love to give gifts.

我必须承认，虽然我喜欢收礼物，但我不能诚实地说我爱送礼物。我喜欢送礼物，但我不能说我爱送礼物。Gift-giving is not something that comes naturally to me. I don't often think ahead and scheme delightfully about finding the perfect gift for someone.

送礼物对我来说并不是件自然而然的事。我很少提前计划和愉悦地挑选完美的礼物送给人。

But some people do. Some people seem to be natural gift-givers.但有些人就会，他们似乎天生就是送礼者。

There are people in our church from whom I receive not only Christmas presents, birthday presents, anniversary cards, but also, whenever they return from a trip, they give me, and all the other pastors, gifts from wherever they travelled to.我们教会里也有这样的人，我不仅收到他们的圣诞礼物、生日礼物、周年纪念贺卡；而且每当他们旅行归来，他们都会从旅行的地方给我和其他牧师送礼物。

I'm quite certain that their love language is “gift-giving.” I'm not like that.

我敢肯定，他们的爱之语言就是“送礼物”。我不是这样的人。

If I'm returning from a trip, I might remember to shop in the duty-free area to at least get small gifts for my family. But I must admit that I often forget to do even that.

如果旅行归来，我可能至少记得在免税店购买小礼物给家人。但我必须承认，我经常连这都忘了。

My wife Sandra is an excellent gift giver. She has secret drawers in our home where she hides, small, inexpensive gifts for no one in particular. 我的妻子 Sandra 是位出色的送礼者。在家里她有个隐秘的抽屉，放着一些非为某人特定准备的小巧且花费不多的礼物。

Then, when someone's birthday or wedding shower comes along, she can pull something out on a moment's notice. She's never caught without having a gift to give.

当有人过生日或举办婚礼送礼会时，她能随时从抽屉里拿出礼物。她从未在需要送礼时手忙脚乱。

And sometimes she even lets me take something from her secret stash, so I don't need to go shopping for a gift. 她甚至有时会让我从她的珍藏中挑选，我就不用特意去购买了。

I believe that God is a natural gift-giver. Actually, He is a super-natural gift-giver. You could say that one of his love languages is gift-giving.

我相信上帝是位天然的送礼者。事实上，祂是位超天然的送礼者。你可以说，送礼物是祂其中一种爱之语言。

God loves to give good gifts, especially to his children. Jesus explained that “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts...” (Matt. 7:11).

上帝爱送优质礼物，尤其是送给祂的儿女。耶稣解释道：“你们虽然不好，尚且知道拿好东西给儿女，何况你们在天上的父，他岂不更要把好东西赐给求他的人吗”（太 7:11）？

We read in James 1:17 that “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.”

我们在雅各书 1:17 读到：“各样美善的恩泽和各样完美的赏赐都是从上头来的，从众光之父那里降下来的。”

Our passage today tells us that God has given each Christian the gift of grace through Jesus.

今天所读的经文告诉我们，上帝通过耶稣赐给每位基督徒恩典的礼物。

Our passage begins in verse 7, by saying “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.”

我们的经文从第 7 节开始：“我们每个人蒙恩都是照基督所量给每个人的恩赐。”

The English word “grace” is translated from the Greek word “charis” from which we also get our word for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which in Greek is “charisma.”

英语中的“恩典”（grace）源自希腊文“charis”，而源自同一个字，我们得到“圣灵的恩赐”（charisma）。

Christ gives the gift of grace to everyone who believes in Him – grace to cover all our sins, grace to be reconciled to God, and grace to inherit eternal life.

基督将恩典的礼物赐予每一个信靠祂的人——遮盖我们一切罪的恩典，使我们与神和好的恩典，使我们得着永生的恩典。

And in his grace, Christ also gave us some other, very special gifts, or “charisma.”

而在祂的恩典中，基督也赐予我们其他非常特别的礼物或“圣灵的恩赐”（charisma）。

You see, the biggest gift-giving day in history was not Christmas, not Epiphany, no, it was Ascension Day -- the day Jesus ascended from earth to heaven. This is what these confusing verses 8 through 10 are talking about.

你知道，历史上最大的赐恩之日并非圣诞节，也非显现节，而是升天节——耶稣从地上升到天上的那一天。这就是令人困惑的第 8 至 10 节所谈论的。

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to indwell all who believe in Him. And through the Holy Spirit He also gave each believer spiritual gifts, or “charisma.” 当耶稣升天时，祂赐下了圣灵的恩赐，使所有信祂的人都有圣灵内住在他们里面。通过圣灵，祂还将属灵的礼物或“恩赐”，赐给每位信徒。

These are spiritually-empowered abilities with which we can help in the work of the church, sharing God’s grace, and his message, with the world. 这些是属灵的能力，使我们能够协助教会的事工，与世界分享上帝的恩典和信息。Each person who puts their faith in Jesus receives at least one of these spiritual gifts. These were given to us when Jesus ascended to Heaven, as He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell the church.

每个信靠耶稣的人都至少获得一样属灵恩赐。这些恩赐是耶稣升天时赐予我们的，祂差遣圣灵内住在教会中。God loves to give gifts to his children, and if you are his child through faith in Jesus, then He has given you at least one spiritual gift, that is, at least one special ability empowered by the Holy Spirit. 上帝爱将礼物赐给祂的儿女，若你因信耶稣成为祂的儿女，祂就已赐给你至少一样属灵恩赐，即至少一样由圣灵赋予的特殊能力。

But if you notice Paul’s language in verse 11, you see there that he refers to another kind of gift. He describes the church’s leaders, themselves, as gifts from God. 但如果你注意保罗在第 11 节中的措辞，就会发现他提到了另一样恩赐。他描述教会领袖本身就是上帝赐予的恩赐。

Whereas in other passages, Paul lists various abilities as spiritual gifts, in this passage he describes the people themselves as gifts.

而在其他经文中，保罗列举了各种能力作为属灵的恩赐，但在这一段，他将人本身描述为恩赐。

So there is not only a gift of teaching – teachers themselves are a gift from God to the church. There is not only a gift of evangelism – evangelists themselves are a gift to the church. I believe we can extend this principle further.

因此，不仅是教导的恩赐——教师本身就是上帝给教会的恩赐。不仅有传福音的恩赐——传福音的人本身就是教会所领受的恩赐。我相信我们可以进一步扩展这原则。

If you have put your faith in Christ, you have not only received a spiritual gift, you ARE a gift to the church. You are a gift to the church when you serve in your area of special ability. We each are a gift of God to the church.

如果你信靠基督，你不仅领受了属灵的恩赐，你本身就是教会所领受的恩赐。当你在自己擅长的领域服事时，你就是教会的恩赐，我们每个人都是上帝赐予教会的礼物。

The only question is, are we acting like it? Are we using the spiritual gifts God has given us to help in the ministry of the church, and to share his grace and good news in the world? 唯一的问题是，我们的行为像吗？我们是否在使用神赐给我们的属灵恩赐来促进教会的事工，并在世界分享神的恩典和好消息？

The Apostle Peter challenges us this way: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Pet. 4:10).

使徒彼得这样挑战我们：“人人要照自己所得的恩赐彼此服事，作神各种恩赐的好管家”（彼前 4:10）。

God loves to give gifts. He has given each one of us spiritual gifts. And He gives you and I as special gifts to his church. 上帝爱赐予礼物。祂赐予我们每人属灵的恩赐，并将你我作为特别的恩赐给予祂的教会。

There is another application of this truth that I believe is especially important at this particular time in the life of Trinity Baptist Church. 在三一浸信教会这个特殊时期，这真理的另一个应用我认为尤其重要。

Paul describes "the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11), themselves, as being gifts to the church. 保罗形容 "使徒、先知、传福音的、牧者和教师"（弗 4:11）本身就是教会的恩赐。

God has given us a particular gift in the ministry and person of Pastor Callum and his family over the past eight years.

We may wonder what lies ahead, how we will find the right Senior Pastor for the coming years.

过去八年间，通过 Callum 牧师及其家庭的事工与生命，上帝赐予了我们一份特别的礼物。我们或许会好奇未来会发生什么，未来几年如何找到合适的主任牧师。

But there is no need to worry. God loves to give gifts to his church. We can count on God to gift us with the Senior Pastor who is right for the next season of Trinity Baptist Church.

无需担忧，上帝爱给予教会礼物。我们可以信赖上帝，祂必会赐予三一浸信教会下一阶段合适的主任牧师。

We will do our homework -- our Board and Search Committee will go through a thorough process. But ultimately it does not depend on them, or on any of us.

但我们会做好功课——我们的董事会和寻索委员会将进行彻底的筛选流程。但最终结果并不取决于他们，也不取决于我们任何人。

God will gift his church with the Senior Pastor we need, with the leadership team we need, and with every member who serves. 上帝会赐予祂的教会所需要的主任牧师，所需要的领导团队，以及每位服侍祂的成员。

We can count on God to provide the pastor we need, because God loves to give good gifts, and He will provide for his church. 我们可以信赖上帝会提供我们所需要的牧师，因为上帝爱赐予美好的礼物，祂必会供应祂的教会。

As we approach a new chapter in the life of our church, we need to ask ourselves a very timely question: What is the job of a pastor? 当我们的教会生活即将翻开新篇章时，我们要问自己一个非常适时的问题：牧师的工作是什么？More generally, what is the job of spiritual leaders in the church? Is it to do the work of the church? Is the work of the church to be carried out mainly by paid staff and elected leaders? Clearly not.

总体上说，教会中属灵领袖的工作是什么？是做教会的工作吗？教会的工作主要是由领薪的职员和选举出来的领袖来完成的吗？显然不是。

We read in verse 12 that the job of spiritual leaders, including pastors, is to "equip (Christ's) people (that's all of us) for works of service" (Eph. 4:12a).

我们在第 12 节读到，包括牧师在内的属灵领袖的工作是 "装备（基督的）子民（也就是我们所有人）做事奉的工作"（弗 4:12a）。

This does not mean that leaders and pastors can sit back and watch everyone else do the work...no, they must work as hard as anyone else. 这并不意味着领袖和牧师可以坐视其他人做工——不，他们必须和其他人一样努力工作。But their primary function is to equip everyone in the church to serve effectively.

但他们的基本功能是使教会中每个人都能有效地服侍。

Verse 12 goes on to say that this is precisely how "the body of Christ (that is the church) [is] built up" (Eph. 4:12b) – by leaders equipping everyone to serve.

第 12 节接着说，这正是 "基督的身体（教会）被建造起来" 的方式（弗 4:12b）——领袖装备每个人服侍。

Paul goes further to explain that this is the true path to maturity – that as we become better equipped to serve God, then we will learn to work together in unity, and we will come to know Jesus better, even becoming more like Him.

保罗进一步解释说，这是通往成熟的真正途径——当我们更好装备自己来事奉神候，我们就会学习在合一中同工，我们就会更深入地认识耶稣，甚至变得更像祂。

Verse 13 tells us that this is how we “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” That is the highest standard of maturity!

第 13 节告诉我们，我们就是这样“得以长大成人，达到基督完全长成的身量”。这是成熟的最高标准！

So, we look forward to discovering who will be the next Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, but not so that they can do all the work – rather so that they can help equip each one of us to serve Christ together.

因此，我们期待谁将成为三一浸信教会的下一任主任牧师，但不是为了让他们做所有的工作，而是为了让他们能够装备我们每一个人，一同侍奉基督。

You see, our Heavenly Father loves us too much to leave us the way we are. He doesn’t want you and me to sit back, thinking we’ve arrived, thinking we’ve come far enough. 你知道，我们的天父太爱我们了，祂不会让我们原地踏步，祂不希望你我坐享其成，以为我们已经达到了，以为我们已经走得够远。

Verse 13 explains that the goal of the church is to imitate the character of Jesus, so that we “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Now that is a high goal! 第 13 节解释说，教会的目标是效法耶稣，使我们“得以长大成人，达到基督完全长成的身量”。这是一个很高的目标！

When will we be mature enough? When we match the standard of character set by Jesus. That is the north star toward which we travel. We will never reach that standard of maturity – until Jesus returns to bring us into his glory. 我们什么时候才足够成熟？当我们达到耶稣设定的标准时。这是指引我们前进的北极星，是我们永远也达不到的成熟标准——直到耶稣再来把我们带到祂的荣耀里。

Then, as the apostle John tells us, “we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). 而且，正如使徒约翰告诉我们，“我们所知道的是：基督显现的时候，我们会像祂，因为我们将见到祂的本相”（约一 3:2）。

But for now He calls us to begin striving toward that goal. As Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12: “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

但现在，祂呼召我们开始朝着这目标努力。正如保罗在腓立比书 3:12 中写道：“这不是说我已经得着了，已经完全了；而是竭力追求，或许可以得着基督耶稣所要我得着的”。

So let us keep pressing forward, together, toward the goal of maturity in Christ.

因此，让我们努力面前，一起继续向着在基督里的成熟标杆直跑。

But if the goal is so far off, why even try? Well, to not move forward is to slide back. And the perils of sliding back into deeper immaturity are truly fearful.

但如果目标如此遥远，为什么还要努力呢？嗯，不前进就等于后退，且倒退到更深程度的不成熟存在着重大的危险，确实令人恐惧。

We are surrounded by many voices today, many of which threaten to throw us off course, so that we lose our bearings, and become ineffective. 今天，我们被许多声音包围着，其中许多威胁着要让我们偏离进程的，使我们迷失方向的，变得碌碌无为的。

We are surrounded by many deceptive influences. The current word for these is “influencers.” The problem of deceptive influencers is nothing new.

我们被许多欺骗性的影响力包围，现时对他们称为“对别人有影响力的人”。欺骗性影响者的问题并不新鲜。

Centuries ago, the apostle Paul warned us of the same thing. He warned us of how dangerous it is to remain immature in the midst of many competing, deceptive teachings. 多个世纪前，使徒保罗就警告过我们同样的问题。他警告我们，在众多相互竞争、欺骗性的教义中，保持不成熟是多么危险。

Verse 14 challenges us: “... no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.”

第 14 节向我们提出挑战：“.....不再作小孩子，中了人的诡计和欺骗的法术，被一切邪说之风摇动，飘来飘去”。

That sounds like our current society, doesn't it? Too often Christians and even entire churches are blown off course by the latest currents of opinion. 这听起来就像我们当前的社会，不是吗？基督徒甚至整个教会常常被最新的舆论潮流吹偏。

How are we to avoid these pitfalls? How are we to press on toward Christ, in keeping with his truth? 我们该如何避免这些陷阱？我们该如何按照基督的真理向祂前进？

Verse 15 explains: "Speak the truth in love." This is what we can do for one another.

第 15 节解释了这一点："用爱心说诚实话"。这是我们可以为彼此做的。

But as you know, this is much easier said than done. How do we discern the balance between truth and love?

但正如你们所知，这说起来容易做起来难。我们如何辨别真理与爱之间的平衡呢？

This is why Paul describes maturity as a collective enterprise – it's something the church learns together.

因此，保罗把成熟描述为一项集体事业，它是教会共同学习的东西。

Wisdom is not something we learn in isolation – we each need input from others.

智慧不是我们孤立地学习的东西——我们每人都需要别人的帮助。

This is where pastors and spiritual leaders can help us.

这正是牧师和属灵领袖可以帮助我们地方。

All of the gifted leaders listed in verse 11 have one thing in common – they are expected to be trained in God's word and to be able to communicate it in a way that is constructive.

第 11 节列出所有有恩赐的领袖都有一个共同点——他们应该在神的话上受过训练并且能够以建设性的方式传达神的话。

They are here to teach and to guide, but only in keeping with God's word.

他们是来教导和引导的，但必须符合神的话。

Then we can grow together in Christlikeness, learning the truth, and learning how to speak that truth in love.

这样，我们就能在效法基督里共同成长、学习真理、学习如何用爱心说诚实话。

So verse 15 concludes that "speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

因此，第 15 节总结说："用爱心说诚实话，各方面向着基督长进，连于元首基督"。

Christian maturity cannot be gained in isolation. We grow in maturity only as we serve together in Christ's church.

基督徒不可能在孤立中长得成熟。只有当我们在基督的教会中一起事奉，我们才会变得成熟。

We need to put into use the spiritual gifts that we have been given, we need to take advantage of the equipping ministry of the church's leaders, we need to learn to speak the truth in love, and we need to work together.

我们需要运用自己的属灵恩赐；我们需要利用教会领袖的装备信徒事工；我们需要学会用爱心说诚实话；我们需要同心协力。

The church will grow only as each member does their work. This is the conclusion of our passage.

只有每个成员都扮演好自己的角色，教会才会成长。这是今天经文的结论。

Note that all of this is a result of each member doing their part. 请注意，这一切都是每个肢体各尽其职的结果。

Verse 16 tells us, "From [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." This is the path to Christian maturity – each of us serving Christ together. 第 16 节告诉我们："靠着（基督）全身都连接得紧凑，百节各按各职，照着各体的功用彼此相助，使身体渐渐增长，在爱中建立自己"。这就是基督徒走向成熟的途径，我们每人都一同服侍基督。

Last week, our youth and young adults enjoyed a campout at my mother's lakeside home. It was delightful to see our young people enjoying the water, and learning new skills. 上周，我们的青少年和年轻人在我母亲的湖畔家，享受了一次露营活动。看到他们享受水上活动的乐趣并学习新技能，我感到非常高兴。

My mom later mentioned that she watched some of our young people learning to paddle a kayak. That may sound simple, but these small boats are very tippy, and easily get off course.

后来我母亲提到，她看到一些年轻人在学习划轻巧的独木舟。这听起来很简单，但这些小独木舟非常容易倾斜，且很容易偏离航线。

At one point, two beginner kayakers climbed onto a two-seat kayak, but they took their seats facing backwards from each other. So when they tried to paddle, of course they went nowhere, except maybe in circles.

其中，有两个初学者爬上了双人座独木舟，但他们却背对背而坐。因此，当他们试着划桨时，除了绕圈之外，当然他们哪儿也去不了。

When they finally figured out how to sit in the same direction, then they could get moving.

当他们终于想到如何坐在同一方向时，他们就可以开始划行了。

But even then, they had to learn how to paddle in harmony with each other, so that they could travel more quickly, and in the desired direction.

但即便如此，他们也必须学会如何相互协调地划桨，使他们能更快地朝着理想的方向前进。

On that same lake, early in the morning, when the water is calmest, we often see what are known as “dragon boats.”

Dragon boats are very large canoes that were first developed in the Pearl River region of China.

在同一个湖上，清晨水面最平静的时候，我们经常能看到所谓的“龙舟”。龙舟是非常大的独木舟，最早出现在中国珠江地区。 They can be up to 27 meters long, and usually contain a crew of 22 people. For a dragon boat crew to move effectively, it is no good for each crew member to paddle at their own rate.

龙舟可以长达 27 米，通常有 22 名船员。龙舟船员想要有效地划行，每个船员都以自己的速度划行是不行的。 They must paddle in sync with the rest of the crew. In order to paddle simultaneously, they must all stroke at the signal of a drummer, who is considered to be the “heartbeat” of the crew.

他们必须与其他船员同步划桨。为了同时划桨，他们必须按着鼓手的信号，而鼓手被认为是船员的“心跳”。

So it is with us, the church. We must each follow the heartbeat of our Lord Jesus. We must follow his truth and love.

And we must work together in harmony.

我们——教会——也是如此。我们每个人都必须跟随主耶稣的心跳；我们必须跟随祂的真理和爱；我们必须同心协力。

Only then can we move forward. Only then will we move in the right direction.

只有这样，我们才能向前迈进。只有这样，我们才能朝着正确的方向前行。

As the word of God tells us, only then will “we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). Amen.

正如神的话告诉我们的，只有这样，才会“直等到我们众人在信仰上同归于一，认识神的儿子，得以长大成人，达到基督完全长成的身量”（弗 4:13）。阿门。