

HOW LIFTERS & GIFTERS MAKE THE CHURCH POWERFUL TOGETHER

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Philippians 2:1-5 – Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Those who are 40 and over we will label as the church's PREDOMINANT "GIFTERS."

Not that the younger crowd doesn't give, because they do. But the greatest giving comes from the age group of 40 and over.

GIFTERS BELIEVE THAT CHURCH SHOULD BE:

- 1) Comfortable
- 2) Predictable
- 3) Where My Christian Friends Are
- 4) Where Good Doctrine Is Preached
- 5) Where I'm Taken Care Of Spiritually

Those that are 39 and under have been called the primary in CHURCH "LIFTERS!"

LIFTERS refers to the primary volunteers or servant leaders, or HEAVY LIFTERS of the church. I'm not saying that GIFTERS don't LIFT, because they do. However, the majority of the HEAVY LIFTING in the church is done by 39 and under aged people.

LIFTERS BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH IS:

- 1) Intolerant Of Doubt
- 2) Elitist In Its Relationship
- 3) Anti-Science In Its Beliefs
- 4) Overprotective Of Its Members
- 5) Shallow In Its Theology

So lifters, or the younger set, don't believe that the older set has established a church that they can be a part of.

GIFTERS VALUE:

- 1) Opportunities Where My Generosity Can Make A Difference.
- 2) A Desire To Be Needed By The Lifters

GIFTERS are saying, "I can't physically do as much, but I want to fund the work of God and I want my kids to need me!"

But older Gifters will only be needed by the Lifters if they embrace what lifters value.

LIFTERS VALUE:

- 1) Culture Over Liturgy
- 2) Community Service
- 3) Collaboration
- 4) Diversity

We must give them what they want! **WHY?**

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98% of All CHRISTIANS in the World Accept Christ Before the Age of 30! That's a FACT.

It's a culture war out there. The devil is winning the culture war in the world with Lifters. That's where the war is.

When THE GIFTERS — that's us "older people," make it about US, the Lifters leave.

What happened here? The older folks kept their culture. They kept what they like and the younger folks, the Lifters said, "FINE," and left.

We must decide who we want to be. Do we want to be an old church that could become a beautiful building with no people in it, or do we want to be a thriving church?

Paul says in Philippians 2:1-2:

- 1) **If you enjoy being encouraged because you are United in love...**
- 2) **If you like being comforted...**
- 3) **If you want to experience the power of the Holy Spirit...**
- 4) **If you're in search of tenderness and compassion...**

Then in Philippians 2:3 ...

**Do nothing out of selfish ambition
or vain conceit. Rather, in humility
value others above yourselves.**

TO ALL THE GIFTERS...

The apostle is saying you need to stay together, and the way you do that is to put the others needs over your needs. Let all arrogance go. We love them! We can't live without them!!

Remember St. Paul and Barnabas in Acts 15:39? In their second missionary journey Paul took Silas, and Barnabas took John Mark. Barnabas encouraged the young man to the point that John Mark penned the second gospel under his name in the New Testament. He became such an evangelist that there is a major statue made to commemorate him in St Mark's square in Venice Italy.

Many years later, in 2 Timothy 4:11, Paul says to Timothy... "When you come bring John Mark with you for he is profitable to me in the ministry!"

It took Paul, the GIFTER, quite a long time to finally acknowledge that John Mark, the LIFTER, had great value in the ministry. If young people don't pick up the call of God, the gospel is over. We don't want that to happen on our watch. We're going to need help.

Philippians 2:4 – Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

NOW TO THE LIFTERS...

The greatest need of the Gifters is to be loved by the Lifters. They want young people to ask for their wisdom. I can't tell you how happy I am when one of my sons calls me and asked me what I think about something.

But gifters, don't be giving your opinion all the time. Remember this...

WISDOM ISN'T WISDOM UNLESS IT'S ASKED FOR!

Lifters, you're going to need money to make your dreams float! Be nice to mom and dad and grandma and grandpa!

Philippians 2:5 – In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.