

# The Contemporary Christ

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 4:11-12.

B. The church must return to the priesthood of every believer.

## II. The unique character of the church is that it is the body of Christ.

A. The body is to develop the power of Christ in the world.

B. Each unit of the body is to develop a gift to exercise in the world or in the church.

C. The special support ministry: apostles, prophets, evangelists, teaching pastors.

D. The gifts are so that Christ will be manifest in the world.

E. The ultimate goal is on the level of the soul and the spirit, not the material. (Luke 4)

## III. The believer is to do the works of Jesus and greater. (John 14)

A. This is a Spirit-filled ministry.

B. The believer will accomplish the work of an evangelist.

C. The believer will bring liberty and light.

1. Telling people the truth sets them free.

2. Discipleship brings light to the blind.

3. Every believer should be able to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

D. The believer will declare the day of salvation.

E. We must be stewards of the gifts we have been given.

## Application questions:

1. What are the works of Jesus that the believer is expected to fulfill? How can it be said that the believer's works will be greater?

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2. Gifts are directed to the church and the world. Where do you feel you are called to minister primarily?

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3. Who is someone that you know who could use light or liberty? How can you reach out to this person this week? Be specific.

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