

The Power of Christ at Work in Our Church

(Ephesians 4:11-16)



Part 4 of 12

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Introduction

The Entire Church Is the Training Environment

¹¹ And He **gave** some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of 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 a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who **is** the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, **causes** the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

Five mistakes you should avoid:

- a. This passage is written to me _____
- b. _____ the truth is enough
- c. I can live for Christ _____ Christ
- d. The author's intended meaning of this passage is _____ discerned in English
- e. Neglecting your _____ under God's sovereignty

1. God Gives the Church the _____ She Needs (vv. 11-14)

- "And He **gave** some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers." (Ephesians 4:11)
- "The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching." (1 Timothy 5:17)
- "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)

To Equip

- "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- "For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies." (2 Thessalonians 3:11)
- "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming." (Ephesians 4:13-14)

2. God Leads the Church towards its Goal of Becoming _____ Christ (v. 15)

- "but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who **is** the head, even Christ." (Ephesians 4:15)

3. God Causes the Church to Grow _____ as a Body (v. 16)

- "from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, **causes** the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)

Conclusion

- a. Are you _____ or flakey?
- b. Are you _____ or are you out?
- c. Are you _____ or are you hurting?
 - "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to just the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)
- d. Are you willing to _____ or are you lazy?
- e. Are you _____ or serving?

Application

1. How do non-believers think or what do they say about participating and serving in the church?
2. How do untaught or immature Christians respond to the idea of faithfully serving in the church?
3. How does the Bible describe normal church involvement for genuine Christians?
4. Why are some people, who claim to know what the Bible says, so cavalier (i.e., optional attendance/service) towards the church?
5. What kind of exceptions and excuses do people use to exempt themselves from serving in the church family? Are they legitimate?
6. Why is active involvement in the church family through ministry so important to each Christian's spiritual growth?
7. What steps do you personally need to take to fulfill Christ's commands to serve in the church family?

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