

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
“How Christ Builds His Church”
Eph. 4:12-16
10-22-17 Sun AM

Chapter four of Ephesians teaches Biblical unity. We learned that if we are to have unity we must have the lowly walk with the right attitudes based on the right foundation (4:1-6).

We also learned that if we are to have biblical unity in the church we must have believers knowing and expressing their spiritual gifts (4:7-11).

God plan is for His church to grow in number and maturity in order to have spiritual unity.

We can't have true unity without maturity, and we can't have true maturity without unity.

TT- God's plan for church growth is simple, yet many rely on promotions, programs, entertainment, human techniques, and human strategies. Christ will build His church thru the means given in our text.

1. Gifted Men Equips the Body [vs. 11-12a].

A. Perfecting? Means “equip.” It means to restore to original condition, to be made fit or complete. This word is used 5 ways in scripture.

1. *Medical way* [Gal. 6:1] - set a bone out of joint, to find place and function.

2. *Psychological way* [1 Cor. 1:10] - counselor or think right.

3. *Military way* [2 Tim. 3:15-16] - train for battle.

4. *Educational way* [Luke 6:40] trained as a disciple.

5. *Commercial way* [Matt. 4:21] - mending their nets, useful.

B. What does the pastor use in equipping? He uses the *exposition* of the scriptures.

1 Tim. 4:13- Read, exhort, and teach [explain].

2 Tim. 3:14-17- “The Scriptures are useful for salvation, sanctification, and service.

2 Tim. 4:2- Preach the Word.

John 17:17, 19- “Sanctify them through the truth, the word is truth.”

We are set apart for a particular use, and we love what God loves and hate what God hates. We are set apart, we are being set apart and we will be set apart. We are to be totally set apart for the Father's will as Jesus was [v. 19].

Question- Who does the work of the ministry? Both, He does his ministry of equipping so they can built up the body thru ministry.

We don't pay the preacher to do ministry for us, but he equips us thru the Scriptures.

The church is to be a Bible-Driven church.

2. The Body Then Edifies the Body [vs. 12b-16].

A. Edify? Used figuratively as spiritual growth [build up].

B. How do we know we are growing spiritually? 4 evidences of Edification or growth:

1. *Christ-likeness* [v. 14].

God wants every believer manifesting the character of Christ. Jesus is our standard for spiritual maturity.

2 Cor. 3:18- The Spirit's ministry in making us like Christ. We see Christ thru the scriptures and are being transformed into Christ-likeness. Glory to glory speaks of progressive sanctification. Growth begets growth.

Col. 1: 28-29- Goal of ministry is Christ-likeness.

2. *Doctrinal Stability* [vs. 13a, 14].

We are no longer spiritually immature and easily deceived. We know what we believe and why we believe it.

We are able to use the Word of God skillfully.

3. *Speaking the truth in love* [v. 15].

Evangelism is most effective when shared in love.

We have to be equipped and empowered by God's love and boldness.

4. *Cooperation in service* [v. 16].

Every member discovering their giftedness and functioning as God intended in the ministry he intended [v. 16a].

Every member in submission to the Holy Spirit in obedience and cooperation with the other members [v. 16b].

Then growth results in the body when we are equipped and edifying the body in love [v. 16 c].

Con: How do you know you are growing up?

1. Character- Your character is more like Christ.
2. Beliefs- Your beliefs are in line with the Bible.
3. Speech- You speak the truth in love.
4. Service- You are doing your part in the body.

Today we have many wrong views of the measurement of “success” in the ministry. Success revolves around two questions...

1. Is the pastor equipping the church?
2. Is the church growing?

Next Week - “The New Life” - Eph. 4:17-32