

BUILDING STRONG BODIES (II)

Ephesians 4:1-16

Eph 4:1 change the way you think and live: your new life in Christ

Eph 4:17 – 6:9 develops this in practical ways

Eph 4:2-16 is the prelude to how this takes place

The focus is on how the **Body** functions

BASIC to your Christian life is living in The Community:

The **Church**

Eph 4:2-3: it is *not* easy. It takes determination & commitment.

It is frankly supernatural. So he speaks of grace.

2 kinds of grace:

1. The **unity** of SAVING grace that binds us together (4:4-6)
You ARE one, therefore LIVE as one.
2. The **diversity** of SERVING grace that builds us up together (4:7-16)

4:7-10: The **power** of the Ascended Christ: gave gifts

4:11: The persons He gives as leaders of His Church

4:12: The **purpose** of elders - the elders' **process**:

EQUIP the SAINTS for MINISTRY

WHAT: **EQUIP**:

WHO: **the SAINTS**:

FOR WHAT: **MINISTRY**

The leaders of CPC long to equip you to be fruitful in ministry

- Preaching and the Lord's Supper
- Youth Group ministries
- Upward coaches
- Home Fellowship Groups
- Seminars
- Twelve Steps of Discipleship
- Conferences

Are you a minister—or a consumer?

4:13: The **purpose** of the **ministers** - the ministers' **goal**: **The Perfection of the Saints**:

- **C** _____ : unity of The Faith
Know your **Bible**
- **A** _____ : intimate knowledge of the Son
(cf.1:17)
Love your **Savior**
- **C** _____ : become like Christ
Reflect your **Lord**

4:14: the contrast: immaturity & instability

There are always popular teachers who want to lead you astray, and play to your consumer inclinations

4:15-16: how maturity happens - the ministers' **process**:

A. Application of TRUTH (v15)

1. _____ the truth
 - a) contra v14 deception: sincerity
 - b) contra v13: convictions → affections
→ character in daily testing

2. _____ the truth—in love
(Gal 4:16)

- a) cf. v25: no spin or manipulation or avoiding difficult issues
- b) cf. v29: no garbage talk or insensitive reaction

B. Availability of ALL (v16)

Not just the staff. Not just the elders. Not just the small group leaders. YOU uniquely.

If you are part of CPC, it is never "they"; always "we"

The consumer mindset says "They"

The minister mindset says "We"

By God's grace this simple process, so rarely practiced, produces world-changing disciples!

And our world is ripe for such right now.

This is the vision for CPC in the days ahead.