

Ephesians 4:11-16

Ministry by Multiplication...the Master's Model

Christ Fellowship Bible Church- Sunday December 2, 2018

4 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling** with which you have been **called**, 2 with all **humility and gentleness**, with **patience, showing tolerance for one another in love**, 3 **being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 **But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

8 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives,

And He gave gifts to men."

9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

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 what 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.

I. Intro...What's your "model"?

Compare worldly and biblical models

CATEGORY OR ISSUE	TRADITIONAL MODEL	BIBLICAL MODEL
Concept of Church	Organization	Organism
Believers	"Members" (as in a club)	Disciples of Jesus Christ (members of the Body)
Involvement	Spectators (observing action)	Participants in the action, ministers
Basic Ministry	Conducting services	Equipping, meeting needs
Place of Ministry	Church building (at stated times)	Anywhere (all the time)
Primary Concern	Programs, things, buildings, etc.	Equipping, ministry, multiplication
Field	Our own area	The world
Purpose of Assembling	Entertainment, evangelism in the service	Stimulate to love and good deeds; encourage and equip the saints

Emphasis	Meetings, setting and breaking records	God, individuals, families, quality plus quantity
Pastor-Teacher	Administrator, speaker, employee (belongs exclusively to this church)	Teacher, counselor, shepherd, equipper (belongs to body, works primarily with this assembly)
Attitude toward Pastor-Teacher	The “professional” hired to do ministry	One of “many” ministers
Methodology	What we’re used to, feel comfortable with	Whatever the situation demands as long as it is true to God’s Word and honors the Lord
Ultimate Concern	“Our” church; what others think	Exalting Christ; what God says
Result	Rev. 3:1b Like the church at Sardis: you are alive, but you are dead	Eph. 4:11-16 Body built up to maturity functioning as God intends

I. Ephesians 4:11-12 (4:11-16)

“Gifted men”

Foundational Gifts- Apostles and Prophets (Eph 2:20)

No longer operative

Formative Gifts- Evangelists and Pastor-Teachers

Integral to the Church

How does the church grow? Evangelism (vs Marketing or Recruiting)

Aside...the way we translate “poimen” really matters...”shepherd” vs Pastor

Greek “Poimen”

"a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks" (not merely one who feeds them), is used metaphorically of Christian "pastors," Eph 4:11. "Pastors" guide as well as feed the flock; cp. Act 20:28, which, with ver. 17, indicates that this was the service committed to elders (overseers or bishops); so also in 1Pe 5:1, 2, "tend the flock... exercising the oversight," this involves tender care and vigilant superintendence.

Two approaches to 4:12

A. KJV...

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

12 For the perfecting of the saints,

for the work of the ministry,

for the edifying of the body of Christ:

B. NASB, NKJV, ESV

NASB 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;

NKJV 11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

ESV 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Phillips and NLT renderings of 4:11-12

J B Phillips

His “gifts to men” were varied. Some he made his messengers, some prophets, some preachers of the Gospel; to some he gave the power to guide and teach his people. His gifts were made that Christians might be properly equipped for their service, that the whole body might be built up

NLT

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12** Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Consider the implications!

Parallel/Professional or Progression/Participatory

So...What’s the role/function of the gifted men?...Equip

Greek “katartismos” 1x in NT

Denotes, in much the same way as No. 1, "a fitting or preparing fully," [Eph 4:12](#)

Equip Who?...the saints

Consider the implications...who's the focus here?

Unbelievers? No

Believers? Yes

Important...If we miss this point, we will inevitably pursue a model of ministry that's very far afield from the biblical model

Equip for What?...work of service (Greek "diakonia" service 34x in NT)

of the service of believers, e.g., Act 6:1; Rom 12:7; 1Cr 12:5, RV, "ministrations" (AV, "administrations"); 1Cr 16:15; 2Cr 8:4; 9:1, 12, RV, "ministration;" 2Cr 9:13; Eph 4:12, RV, "ministering" (AV, "the ministry," not in the sense of an ecclesiastical function); 2Ti 4:11, RV, "(for) ministering;" collectively of a local church, Act 11:29, "relief" (RV marg. "for ministry"); Rev 2:19, RV, "ministry" (AV, "service"); of Paul's service on behalf of poor saints, Rom 15:31;

What's the Game Plan? (vs 12)...*Saints become Servants*

But... How?

Look at verse 7...

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Who's doing the ministry? Recall the construction of verse 12

The Importance of Each Member

"Believers' gifts are like fingerprints—each one is completely distinct from all others. Some teachers may emphasize knowledge, some instruction, some mercy, and others exhortation. From the palette of gift colors the Holy Spirit uses the brush of His sovereign design to paint the mixture of each believer so that no two are like.

Christians are not assembly-line productions, with every unit being exactly like every other unit.

Consequently, no Christian can replace another in God’s plan. He has His own individualized plan for each of us and has individually gifted us accordingly. We are not interchangeable parts in Christ’s Body, but “individually members one of another” (Rom. 12:5).”

What Happens When Members Opt Out of Using Their Gifts/Engaging in Ministry?

3 tragic results...

“Dishonors the Giver

Defeats the Purpose

Disables the Ministry”

Aside...Jesse Johnson on Believers and their Gifts (Cripplegate blog)

“How does a believer go about identifying his spiritual giftedness? The New Testament gives at least three lists of spiritual gifts (Rom 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:7-12, Eph 4:11-13; cf 1 Cor 7:7, 1 Peter 4:10), strongly implying at the very least that every Christian has a kind of spiritual gift, and that not every Christian has every gift. So how do you find out what your gift is?

First, remember that every believer has the responsibility to be a faithful member of their local church, and that gifting is discovered, identified, and validated in that context.

So...if you are not a member of a church, fret about that before you fret about what you are supposed to do *in* that church.

Second, practice the commands that the New Testament gives all believers. It is through the practice of those commands that you discover the particular area in which you are gifted. We are all called to evangelism, giving, and showing mercy, for example. There are times and situations where service is required, and we are the one at hand to serve. By prayer and obedience to God we serve to love and meet the needs of others regardless of our gift.

It is through that obedient service where we discover which of the gifts we are most effective in using. Being aware of our spiritual gift (or gifts) enables us to give priority to those areas of ministry which allow for the greatest alignment of our gifting with the the needs around us. In so doing, we are most effective.

I recently came across a chart that Ryrie used in *The Holy Spirit* (128-129) to help explain this practical concept:

GIFTS GIVEN TO SOME	COMMANDS GIVEN TO ALL
1. Serving (Rom 12:7)	1. Serve one another. (Gal 5:13)
2. Exhortation (Rom 12:8)	2. Exhort one another (Heb 10:25)
3. Giving (Rom 12:8)	3. All give (2 Cor 9:7)
4. Teaching (Rom 12:7)	4. Teaching (Matt 28:18-20)
5. Showing mercy (Rom 12:8)	5. Be kind (Eph 4:32)
6. Faith (1Cor 12:9)	6. Walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7)
7. Evangelism (Eph 4:11)	7. All witness (Acts 1:8)

I appreciate this chart because it captures the force of the New Testament’s approach to spiritual gifts. All believers should be actively obeying the commands in the right column. But as they do that over time and in the context of church membership, they will begin to see particular areas of obedience that the Lord is blessing in their life. Those blessing cause joy in the believer, and that joy forms a desire to continue to excel in those particular areas. The result is that you have discovered your spiritual gift (likely a form of one of the gifts in the left column).

It really is as simple and straight forward as **being involved** in your church, **being obedient** to the commands of the Bible, and then **focusing your service** in whatever areas give you joy and blessing.”

<http://thecripplegate.com/ryrie-on-finding-your-spiritual-gift/#more-10083>

Now...Compare verses 7,12

“Verse 7 makes plain that all of you are gifted with a measure of grace, and verses 11-12 teach that all of you are in some measure lacking the improvement of grace.

The one (verse 7) proves that you are vitally needed by the church, and the others (verses 11-12) prove that the church is vitally needed by you.” John Piper

Next question...Why...to what end?

What’s the Goal? (vss 13-16)...*The Body is Built Up*

How? The Priority of the Word of God

“He could not exalt more highly the ministry of the word than by attributing to it this effect. For what higher work can there be than to build up the church that it may reach its perfection. They, therefore, are insane, who neglecting this means hope to be perfect in Christ, as is the case with the fanatics who pretend secret revelations of the spirit (that is, they pretend they have prophets), and the proud, who content themselves with the private reading of Scripture and imagine that they do not need the ministry of the church.” John Calvin

IV. What are the marks of maturity?

Verse 13

Rooted in doctrine...unity of the faith (cf Jude...the faith once delivered to the saints)

A bride who truly knows her bridegroom...Gk epignosis...in love with Christ

As a result...Result of what? What has preceded

Steven Cole on Four Vital Signs...

In our text, Paul gives us four vital signs of a healthy body. These are not comprehensive. He does not mention the quality of a church’s worship. He does not bring up whether the church has a heart for missions and evangelism. Perhaps we could think of other important areas.

A healthy body has (1) doctrinal discernment; (2) truth balanced with love; (3) growing Christlikeness; and (4) every member ministry.

1. A healthy body has doctrinal discernment (4:14).
2. A healthy body practices truth balanced with love (4:15a).
3. A healthy body grows toward Christlikeness by submitting to His lordship in all areas (4:15b).
4. A healthy body has every member contributing to the growth of the whole (4:16).

Fitted...used 2x in NT (here in 4:16 and also in 2:21)

Fit (Adjective and Verb), Fitly, Fitting:

"to fit or frame together" (*sun*, "with," *harmos*, "a joint, in building," and *lego*, "to choose"), is used metaphorically of the various parts of the church as a building, [Eph 2:21](#), "fitly framed together;" also of the members of the church as the body of Christ, 4:16, RV, "fitly framed... together."

Joined...knit together...see Colossians 2:2 and 2:19

Interdependence

This is why schismatic people are so dangerous...cf Titus 3:10,11

V. What does it mean to be a "useful" church member?

How to Be a "Useful" Church Member

U...United and Unified

S...Saturated with the Scriptures

E...Equipped to Edify

F...Fitted to Function

U...Unshaken and Unmoved

L...Living Together in Love