



# An Equipping Church

Ephesians 4:11-16 – August 26, 2018

---

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is at the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

---

Overview

Ephesians 4 unpacks what a fully functioning healthy church family looks like. No church becomes healthy on accident. It is an intentional endeavor. Godly, Word-centric leaders give their energies to equipping the rest of the church for the work of ministry. The whole church together then works together to become what God wants her to be: mature and building itself up in love.

## Introduction

An equipping church does not form on accident. It reaches its potential as leaders, grounded in God's Word, intentionally develop every member for fruitful ministry. No one is a spectator. Rather, we are all team players together in the work that God has called us to.

### 1. The Means: Equippers [Verses 11-12]

The leadership roles mentioned here are gifts from God for the benefit of the whole church. Their roles are common in that each of them focuses on God's Word in some explicit way. Their task, saturated with God's Word, is to equip the rest of the church family for fruitful ministry.

## 2. The Goal: Maturity [Verses 13-14]

Equipping and working in God's church is not an aimless pursuit. There is a goal in mind. The goal is maturity where each member becomes more and more like Jesus Christ.

## 3. The Result: Synergy [Verses 15-16]

The end result is a beautiful picture of what happens when all of God's people are working together to make the body of Christ grow and build itself up in love. By this God is glorified and his people experience his good.

1. When you think of effective equipping what organization or person comes to mind? Is there a business or organization that equips people well for whatever work they are focused on?
2. Who has had the most spiritual equipping influence on you and why? Describe it.
3. In relation to question 2, what did you appreciate about how they helped or equipped you?
4. What description of maturity in verses 13-16 stuck out to you and why?
5. To be an equipping church as described in Ephesians 4, every member must be involved and get in the game. What makes that hard for you and/or for others? What real or potential obstacles are in the way?
6. What is one step of faith you can take to either be equipped or help equip others for fruitful ministry?
7. Is there someone you can think of who is more a spectator than a team player in our church that you could lovingly encourage to get more involved?