

Our discussion this week will concentrate on EPHESIANS 4:11-16. Read it as a group!

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

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, 13 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, 14 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. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 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.

FIRST things FIRST:

Verse 11 lays out 5 specific ministries within the church. Compare this list to 1 Corinthians 12:28... And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

What can we assume are the “greater gifts” God gives His people based on these two texts?

If these are the MAIN gifts God gives us, and EVERYONE who is in Christ has at least ONE of them, how can we make sure we DISCOVER ours?

- Ask the group to share theirs if they know what it is. If not direct them to fivefoldsurvey.com

Read verses 12 and 13 above. “And He **GAVE... to...**”. God had a PURPOSE in mind!

- Who is responsible for “**equipping the saints**”? Who are the “**saints**”? Why is “**building up the body**” so important?
- God desires UNITY in His church (bride), and MATURITY, and wants us to know the FULLNESS of Christ.

READ vs. 14 again...

When we KNOW our gifts and are working towards maturity in Christ, we are less likely to be like children who are easily manipulated, deceived, and tossed around.

- Talk about some of the things that deceive people, are distract them from truth.
- Have you yourself ever been confused by false doctrine, or cunning schemes?

Of the FIVE ministry gifts mentioned in 1 Cor. 12 and Eph. 4, we spent a lot of time talking about PROPHECY on Sunday. **Prophets:** Have the divine ability to proclaim God’s truth with power and clarity in a timely and culturally sensitive fashion for correction, repentance or edification.

Prophets weren’t popular in the Old Testament and they will not be received well today.

- vs. 15 above says that “**rather**” than being deceived we need to “**Speak the Truth in Love**”

This is NOT as easy as it sounds! But it is necessary! It is **COMMANDED!**

It is important that we first speak into the BODY OF CHIRST. Growing ourselves up, encouraging and correcting one another. So that we can become more like Christ!

Close by reading Ephesians 4:16 again. If we all have a role to play, are all a part of the body of Christ, and are all supposed to be “**working properly**”... ask yourself this question...

“Am I working properly?”