



## Today's Scripture

Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



## Soul Food

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: Eph. 4:11-16 I am responsible for my spiritual growth.

Mon: 1 Tim. 1:3-7 Guard against false teaching.

Tue: Rom. 14:19 Promote peace while building each other up.

Wed: Phil. 3:7-14 Knowing Jesus personally is worth the cost.

Thurs: 1 Cor. 2:6-16 We speak the message of wisdom.

Friday: 1 Cor. 14:20 Pursue mature thought.

Saturday: Gen. 2:21-22 We are made to be interdependent.

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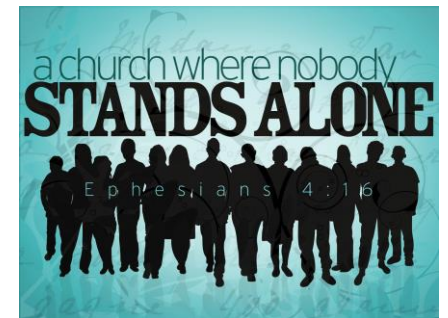
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September 27, 2020

Sermon Notes



Big Idea: We need each other to grow in Christ.

Trinity

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

James 1:22 (NIV)

## Your Life in Light of the Word

Have you ever tried to do something that you were not trained for? What kind of experience was it?

Sometimes you hear people in the church say: "that is the pastor's job." According to Ephesians 4:12 what is the primary responsibility of a pastor?

How can Trinity help better equip you to impact others for Jesus? Talk to Pastor Bill, one of the other pastors or an Elder.

According to Ephesians 4:11-16 what is the goal we are to work toward as followers of Jesus? What kind of progress are you making?

Read James 1:2-8. What do you learn about maturity and wisdom in this passage? How does James compare with what is said in today's passage about maturity?

What happens when we speak truth in love?

What does speaking truth in love look like?

Why can't technology like email, Facebook and Twitter replace speaking to a person face-to-face?

What changes my email to better speak truth in love?

### **Praying God's Word** ~ Ephesians 4:11-16

- Thank God for the five officers given to the church through time.
- Tell God of your desire to be equipped to better serve him.
- Ask God to help the people of Trinity to grow in spiritual maturity.
- Pray for the unity of Trinity.
- Ask God to help us at Trinity to speak the truth in love.
- Pray that all the people of Trinity serve God in the ways He desires so we grow in love.



## Preach or Plow

Our Daily Bread

According to the family legend, two brothers, one named Billy and the other Melvin, were standing on the family's dairy farm one day when they saw an airplane doing some skywriting. The boys watched as the plane sketched out the letters "GP" overhead.

Both brothers decided that what they saw had meaning for them. One thought it meant "Go preach." The other read it as "Go plow." Later, one of the boys, Billy Graham, dedicated himself to preaching the gospel, becoming an icon of evangelism. His brother Melvin went on to faithfully run the family dairy farm for many years.

Skywriting signs aside, if God did call Billy to preach and Melvin to plow, as seems to be the case, they both honored God through their vocations. While Billy had a long preaching career, his success doesn't mean that his brother's obedience to his calling to plow was any less important.

While God does assign some to be in what we call full-time ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12), that doesn't mean those in other jobs and roles aren't doing something just as important. In either case, as Paul said, "each part [should do] its work" (v. 16). That means honoring Jesus by faithfully using the gifts He's given us. When we do, whether we "go preach" or "go plow," we can make a difference for Jesus wherever we serve or work.

How can you use your gifts to honor God in your vocation? How can you encourage others you know so they too can use their calling as a way to serve Jesus?

**Help me, God, to be used right where You put me. Help me to see that my words, actions, and work ethic can profoundly affect others.**