



Derrick Shields “Body Building” 1/1/23

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:11-16

Key Thought: Through the leadership of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and through the loving service of saints, Christ grows the church— his “body”— into his fullness.

Points to Consider:

- The 2023 theme for Christ Community Church is *Body Building*.
- [Follow the logic.] → Christ gave gifted persons... TO equip the saints... FOR works of service... IN ORDER TO build the body!
- “Body” is a metaphor for the church.
 - i. Christ as “head” implies that Christ is the *source* of the church’s growth. (I.e., the head is how food gets into the body!)
 - ii. The metaphor also illustrates that we have diverse *functions* within the church, while having a common *source* and *goal*.
- While Paul mentions gifts that are focused on equipping, *everyone* in the church is gifted— meaning that *everyone* is empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve in a particular way within the church.
- The body is built as each one of us serves (which is, often, to exercise our gifts).
- A “built body” looks like *unity* in faith and knowledge of Christ, and maturity in Christ.
- A “built body” is less vulnerable to be influenced by teaching that contradicts the gospel of Christ.

Discussion Prompts:

- Explain— in your own words— the statement after “[Follow the logic.]” above.
- Why do you think Paul employs the body metaphor? What does it show us about the nature of the church?
- What might Paul say about the modern phenomenon of “churchless Christianity”?
- What might God be saying to YOU through the 2023 theme, *Body Building*?
- What role, in particular, might God be calling YOU to for the building up of his church?