

# **A Divine Blueprint**

## **God's Plan to Build Our Church**

### **Ephesians 4:7-16**

- I. The Lord's responsibility is to endow the church (vv. 7-11).
  - A. God gives gifts to the church (vv. 7-10).
  - B. God gives gifts of men (v. 11).
    - 1. God gave apostles (v. 11a).
    - 2. God gave prophets (v. 11b).
    - 3. God gave pastors (v. 11c).
    - 4. God gave teachers (v. 11d).
- II. The Leader's responsibility is to equip the church (vv. 12-13).
  - A. Leaders are to equip church members to serve (v. 12a).
  - B. Leaders are to equip so that the church grows in size and maturity (v. 12b).
  - C. Leaders are to equip until the church looks like Jesus (v. 13).
    - 1. Corporate unity (v. 13a).
    - 2. Corporate maturity (13b).
    - 3. Corporate Christ-likeness (v. 13c).
- III. The Laity's responsibility is to enable the church (vv. 14-16).
  - A. Members are responsible to grow up out of childlikeness (v. 14).
    - 1. Maturity means being able to consistently discern and apply God's word (v. 14a).
    - 2. Maturity means not being spiritually gullible (v. 14b).
  - B. Members are responsible to grow up into spiritual adulthood (vv. 15-16).
    - 1. Maturity means communicating God's word with kindness (v. 15a).
    - 2. Maturity means being responsive and obedient to Christ (v. 15b).
    - 3. Maturity means being productive and effective in ministry (v. 16).