

Message Notes:

Today's message is centered in a classic passage from the Bible:

- Ephesians 4:11-15; Four main talking points.
- Jesus gives to the Church spiritually gifted leaders,
- To equip God's people,
- So that God's people can do the works of service,
- The impact of this is: Unity, Knowledge, Maturity, Stability, Christlikeness.

Key idea of this message: "an important pathway to spiritual growth and Christlikeness — God's people need to discover meaningful ministry with which to serve God by serving others."

- This fights boredom and spiritual apostasy.

See Matthew 16:25 (the words of Jesus) — "whoever loses their life for My sake, will find it."

- Again, the key to spiritual growth and maturity is to stop (selfishly) focusing on oneself, and to recommit to surrendering to the values of Jesus. "Lose your life" serving Jesus by serving others.

Sadly, some (too many) Christians feel unworthy or incapable to serve Jesus in a ministry.

- But the good news is that, throughout the Bible, God uses "imperfect" people.
- Byron offers, in his message, a long list of Biblical examples: Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, etc.
- The Bible: is full of unqualified misfits whom God used!
- The Greek word (translated "equip" in Eph 4:12) carries with it the idea of "mending, restoring, and cleaning" something or someone who has been damaged by life.

Discussion Questions:

When do you feel farthest from God?

When do you feel most unqualified to serve Jesus?

What about the Gospel message does the most to give you hope of restoration to ministry?

What could the church do to help you find a ministry?