



Series: Ephesians: Taking Ground **Title:** “Healthy Church”
Text: Ephesians 4:7-16 **Speaker:** Jordan Hansen **Date:** July 3, 2022

Everyone wants to live a long and healthy life. But few are willing to work hard at what it takes to achieve health. And... whose definition of healthy are we working with?! Churches and Christians need to make God's definition of health their focus. This week we go beyond unity and into a necessary reality of God's definition of spiritual body health. If we want to take spiritual ground, we each have a part to play!

Cholesterol...a test can reveal unhealth. But what is healthy? → **What creates a healthy church? → Eph. 4:7-16**

Where have we been? What is the book of Ephesians all about?

Ephesians→ Outline: 1-3: Positional & 4-6: Practical **OR** 1-3: Wealth & 4-5: Walk with God & 6: Warfare

Before we can understand what we can do for God...we must understand what God has done for us.

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| Week 1: | Poem of praise about the Trinity at work in salvation. | Ephesians 1:1-14 |
| Week 2: | Paul's Prayer of enlightenment | Ephesians 1:15-23 |
| Week 3: | Salvation: Saved from SIN! | Ephesians 2:1-10 |
| Week 4: | Jew & Gentile: ONE FAMILY | Ephesians 2:11-22 |
| Week 5: | Paul's Calling & His Prayer of empowerment | Ephesians 3:1-21 |
| Week 6: | A Worthy Life Together | Ephesians 4:1-6 |
| Week 7: | A Healthy Church | Ephesians 4:7-16 |

The church is born OUT OF what God has done for people. We can't do church without God.

3 weeks ago: Humility, gentleness, patience, & forbearance = NECESSARY ATTRIBUTES for UNITED community life.

This week: We are talking about healthy church...

4.7-11 7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. 8 That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people." 9 Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. 10 And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

7-11:God gifts the church with people.→Scripture: All gifts come from our generous God!

- In fact, Jesus left Heaven to come to Earth to die on a cross to make sure we have His gifts (8-9).
 - Salvation (Rom. 6:23 - See full verses below)
 - Holy Spirit (Lk. 11:13)
 - Station in life (marriage/singleness - 1 Cor. 7:7)
 - ministry (Eph. 3:7-8)
 - spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:28)
 - PEOPLE (Eph. 4:8 & 11) - God uses people to lead His church!→4 fold / 5 fold...God fold?!
- Thank God for His gifts.→I am grateful for the spiritual leaders God has used in my life.→Jeremy Kinlock

- Voluntarily allow God's leaders to play the role He intends for them in your life.
- And what is a church leader's unique responsibility so you can play your unique responsibility? Lets read...

12-15 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

12-15: God assigns people responsibility. → Scripture: churches get healthy when people fulfill their responsibilities.

- Christian leaders serve **by EQUIPPING God people to do his work** & build up the church (health):
 - Unity in faith & Knowledge of Jesus
 - that we will be mature - measuring UP to the full and complete standard of Christ
 - No longer immature children who are easily deceived - like a boat tossed around in the waves
 - We will speak the Truth in love
 - Growing more and more LIKE CHRIST (the head of the church)
 - How do Christian leaders do this? → Preaching/teaching, Groups, Serving, Social Media → Relationships
 - Christian leaders are like coaches. → They aren't actually on the playing field of your life! → SUPPORT
- Steve Wynn Story → Who has the greater mission... a hotel or a church?
- Christians serve **by DOING God's work/the work of ministry**: ANYTHING that connects people to God.
 - Your job could connect people to God.
 - Your marriage could connect people to God.
 - Your hobbies could connect people to God.
 - The Dream Team connects people to God → We are setting the Table for Jesus & whoever shows.
- And what happens when Christian leaders serve by equipping and the church serves by doing?

16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

14-16: God will fit us together AS we put forth the effort. → Scripture: the result is growth, health & love.

- Each of us has to do our part. → Things we all do:
 - We all show up. → Try to be consistent in your attendance... but also... in SHOWING UP TO LIFE.
 - We all give financially. → Try to Give something... even if you can't give what you'd like to give.
 - We all serve with our time/talent. → Join a Dream Team... and help us set the table every Sunday. → 168 hours
- Full Gospel Church at Blackies Bar... bc Orange County needs a FULL GOSPEL CHURCH.
- MESA LAUNCH TEAM STATEMENT → <https://mesa.church/launch>

As we prepare to launch the Church in September, you have the opportunity to be a part of our launch team. It will be every Tuesday night from 6:30 - 8 PM. The first three weeks will involve prayer, worship & short sessions to equip us to invite people to our interest parties on the last two Tuesdays. People will have a chance to make new friendships and hear the heart behind Mesa Church.

Childcare and dinner will be available each week. As a part of the launch team, there will be other opportunities to see God impact the lives of people in Orange County. Sign up online and let's see what God will do as we step out in faith together.

→ When the church is growing & healthy & loving... it has the best chance of making a difference in its community/country.

→ **Every person in our church matters!**

→ **PRAYER:** Father, help us be a healthy church so we can make a difference in our community!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Does God desire every church to be healthy? What is God's definition of "mature?"
2. What are the 6 types of gifts that God gives to His people? How is Jesus involved?
3. What is "ministry?" How does a Christian leader "equip" people to do God's work/ministry?
4. Why does it matter that everyone fulfills their assignment? What are three ways to do "my part?"
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, give me the motivation to step into my gifts so our church can be healthy!"

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Bible Project Ephesians Video:** <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>
- **Historical/Cultural Background to the Book of Ephesians:** <https://youtu.be/6FfIE2jS7-k>
- **Map of Asia Minor (Modern Day Turkey)** where this letter would have been circulated:



SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 11:13

13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

1 Corinthians 7:7

But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another.

Ephesians 3:7-8

*7 By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.
8 Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.*

1 Corinthians 12:28

28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.

MESA VISION LINKS:

- What is the Mesa Launch Team & how can I sign up? <https://mesa.church/launch>
- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision.Leadership Values](#)
- Where are we at with the building? Click: [NOW Initiative & Building Renovation](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

MESA GROWTH LINKS:

- How can I grow spiritually? Coming soon.
- How can I grow as a leader? Coming soon.
- What books would you recommend? Click: [Book Recommendations](#)
- Where are Jordan's Interviews? Click: [Talks with Jordan](#)

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- GOOGLE PLAY: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.subsplashconsulting.s_K2XMCR&referrer=utm_source%3Dsubsplash%26utm_content%3DeyJ0YW5kbGVyIjoYXBwliwiYXBwa2V5IjoSzJYTUNSIj0=