

# Growing Toward God

## *The Equipping Work of Elders*

The selection of elders is not a casual matter. Too often this is done without examining the ramifications of putting those in who should not serve.... those who do not know how to be biblical leaders. Some view the process as a popularity contest – others view the matter as nothing more than human preference. Congregations often use great discretion when selecting evangelists to work with them. Good. As the preacher goes, so goes the congregation. We need the same awareness as we approach asking men to work with us as additional elders.

### **I. The Purpose of Biblical Leaders**

- A. Eph. 4:12 – to ***equip*** the saints.
- B. 4:12 – Paul tells us how elders equip
  - 1. 4:12b – for the work of ***ministry***.
    - a. Elders shepherd us in ways that will result in our family seeking to accomplish God’s purposes.
  - 2. 4:12c – to ***build up*** the body.
    - a. Constantly look for ways to encourage/edify/challenge us to help one another spiritually.

### **II. How long were these roles to continue?**

- A. 4:13 – until we all reach unity in ***the faith***.
  - 1. What is “the faith?”
  - 2. “The faith” was understanding that God worked through Jesus to establish a people, the Body and Kingdom of Christ.
- B. 4:13b – Grow to ***knowledge*** of the Son of God.
  - 1. Emphasis is on Jesus! Must not lose track of this.
  - 2. What is important is Jesus!
    - a. Elders equip us to put the principles of Christ into practice in daily life.
- C. 4:13c – the result of knowledge: ***maturity***.
  - 1. Our elders equip us with ways to become mature Christians.
  - 2. How? 4:13d – by *measuring themselves by the ***fullness*** of Christ.*
  - 3. Each day, our elders help us; equip us become more like Jesus.

### **Conclusion:**

- A. If congregations are to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the days of a casual approach to the eldership and those who participate in it must end.
- B. Biblical leadership is about service. We need leaders who are willing to sacrifice...willing to give the honor/glory where it belongs....to Jesus.