

EPHESIANS

IN CHRIST WE STICK TOGETHER // IN CHRIST WE THRIVE

Intro: God's Gift to the Church

“Do you believe you are God's GIFT
to the Church?”



Ephesians 4:11

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Christ HIMSELF gave leaders to the Church!

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Jesus not only knows the FUNCTIONS
of His leaders... He knows the individuals.
He CREATED them for this very purpose!

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Apostles -> Eyewitnesses of the RISEN Christ.
No capital A Apostles today, in that sense.
But one function of Apostles was to serve
as Directional Leaders... and God still gives
these to the Church.

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Prophets - John the Baptist was the last Prophet in the sense of pointing AHEAD to Jesus. In Paul's day (and ours), it is about pointing BACK to what Jesus has done, and calling the world away from lesser things.

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Evangelists - We are all called to have Spiritual Conversations... yet some are especially gifted to see when God is "opening the door".

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

These gifts (A, P, E) expand the Church outwardly. But the next two (Shepherds and Teachers) build up the body INSIDE the Church.

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Shepherds - God is the CHIEF Shepherd who cares for His People. Yet He has graciously given “undershepherds” who meet the Spiritual and Physical needs of the Church.

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

Teachers - Not only EXPLAINING God's Word,
but also commending it as central to our lives!
Teachers take complex ideas and make them
understandable to us.

I. A Plurality of Leaders (11)

OF COURSE Fleetwood Bible Church has
these type of leaders... God created us
SPECIFICALLY to be these leaders!



Ephesians 4:12

II. Equipping the People (12)

What if I'm not an apostle, prophet,
evangelist, shepherd, or teacher?

Do I still have a purpose within the Mission?

II. Equipping the People (12)

The purpose of the leaders is to equip
EVERYONE to serve God using whatever
gifts they have been given.

II. Equipping the People (12)

“So that the Body of Christ might be
Built Up.”

II. Equipping the People (12)

God takes the teachers and the evangelists
and the coffee servers and the offering
counters... and He uses all of us to
BUILD UP THE BODY of Christ!

II. Equipping the People (12)

One reason that churches struggle is
that the people don't realize they are
ON A MISSION!



Ephesians 4:13

III. Growing to Maturity (13)

One main purpose for the Church is that believers would GROW into Spiritual Maturity.

III. Growing to Maturity (13)

We are not fully mature yet...

We are BECOMING mature.

The Christian life is all about who we
are becoming!

III. Growing to Maturity (13)

God gives leaders to the Church so that
we ALL might grow toward Christ-likeness...
even the LEADERS!

Conclusion: Survive or Thrive?

Can the church thrive and grow while the Pastor is away? The church of Ephesus did!

Conclusion: Survive or Thrive?

God has graciously GIVEN us everything that we need to thrive in these next months.

Conclusion: Survive or Thrive?

When I see you in three months, I won't see the same version of you that I see today... and you won't see the same version of me. We will see who we are BECOMING as we follow Christ in these days!

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