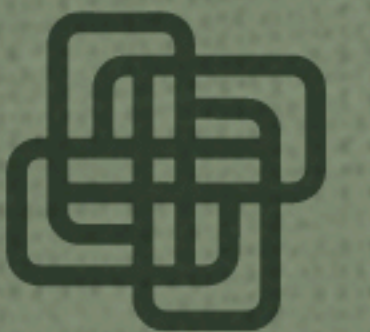




Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Church Growth Essential 1: The Church Warring Together For Unity

vs 1-6

Gk- axios = axiom (to be of equal weight)
in light of chs. 1-3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the

3 Character qualities for Relational Unity

calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with

patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the

Trinity at work in uniting church in Christ

Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you

were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith,

one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in

all.

-Humility: intentional restrain of taking the focus off of ourselves to respectfully submit to others in order to promote their best interests

-Gentleness (Meekness): Bridled Strength (Matt. 11:29)

-Patience: to be longsuffering with the faults of other people being slow to rebuke.



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Church Growth Essential 2: The Church Contributing Together in Ministry vs. 7-12

Jesus apportions gifting

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's

Not referring to salvific grace; rather gifting for ministry

Ref: Psalm 68

gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,

and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but

that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who

God is much more concerned with your godliness rather than your giftedness.

You're not his employee to preform for, you're his child to gift and enjoy.

descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he

Giftings here seem to be linked to 4 types of Bible Teachers

might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,

Eph. 2:20

the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for

building up the body of Christ,

Believer, you don't just have God's gifts.

You are His gift to His church.



4 Gifts of Ephesians 4

- 1. Apostle: These were appointed by Christ as his witnesses & empowered by his Spirit to write the NT together.*
- 2. Prophet: original 1st century prophets who taught & preserved the faith in association w/ the apostles until the NT was completed (Don't think Paul is referring to the prophecy gift of all Christians in evangelism & biblical insight because of Eph. 2:20)*
- 3. Evangelist: These are those who are gifted in making the gospel plain & relevant to the lost or helping fearful people share their faith. The unique gifting to take complex theology & make it plain for all to hear.*
- 4. Pastor/Teacher: Pastor literally means shepherd. Those who have been appointed to know, lead, feed, guide, & protect Christ's church.*



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Church Growth Essential 2: The Church Contributing Together in Ministry vs. 7-12

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and
teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the
body of Christ,

↙ Reason for these spiritual gifts

CHURCH IS NOT:

- A pastor dictated event where people have no opportunity to fly gifts
- A pastor/leadership driven event to show up to & consume of

CHURCH IS:

- A beautiful body to belong to where everyone contributes & shares gifts for the building up of the family.
- A place where every member is a minister



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Church Growth Essential 3: The Church Growing Together into Maturity vs. 13-16

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of

A church that does not change is either perfect (impossible) or not listening to the Scriptures.

God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of

True for both theological progressives & conservatives

Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves

and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness

The Medium of Maturity = "Truthing" one another

in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in

Growth happens by not just "knowing truth" but "practicing truth"

every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body,

joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each

part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.





Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*

