

## Live. Love. Lead.

We did not come into this world with a downloaded understanding about life, love, or leadership. We need to be EQUIPPED.

In Ephesians, chapters 1-3 Paul is basically saying, “This is who you are in Christ! And it’s amazing!”

That’s what we call “indicatives”. But after laying out these truths, Paul moves into three chapters of commands or imperatives.

### Four Gospel-Forming Questions

*What you do flows from who you are.*

Who is God? What did God do? Who am I? What do I do?

God’s Being >>> God’s Doing >>> Our Being >>> Our Doing

### Ephesians 4:1-13

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

*<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it... <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

You ARE one, so BE one. Look at verse 3, Make every effort to KEEP the unity of the Spirit. And there’s a couple ways to do this. Make every effort. Bond a peace. Through works of service. We each have a “gift”. A special ability that God has given to us to be able to serve others. And as we serve one another and this world, the body of Christ, or the Church of Jesus Christ, will be built up. In a way that the body is BUILT UP. And this is not primarily in numbers, although that is an aspect of it. But built up in two ways this passage says:

- In Unity—In the Faith and Knowledge (epiginosko) of Jesus
- In Maturity—Looking more and more like Jesus

## God Has Given Equippers

And God has given “equippers” to the church who are uniquely gifted by God to equip the saints for works of service. This word translated “equip” carries with it this idea that something is broken or not complete and it needs to be mended, healed, or the pieces brought together such that the unit actually works as a unit. All the pieces are there maybe, but they are separated. They have not been brought together in such a way that it functions properly.

No one came into this world knowing how to do all that is required to advance the Kingdom of God. I want to suggest for that to happen, we need to be equipped to live well, love well, and lead well.

But we don’t know how to do that! We need to be equipped. And there’s no shame in that.

Coming back to the passage:

*<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

So watch what happens in this passage. God gave to the Church some to be equippers. There are different kinds of gifts in the body of Christ. Some are SERVING gifts which are hugely important. But some are EQUIPPING gifts. Some have been gifted by God to be equippers to help all the others serve in the unique way that God has SHAPED them.

### Ephesians 2:10

*<sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

### Romans 12:4-6a

*<sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts...*

There’s something about the apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral and teaching ministries that equip God’s people in special way to actually come together, like bringing all those truck parts together to actually form a fully, functioning, powerful body.

In closing, consider these three commitments:

- Be willing to say “I don’t know how to do this”
- Be willing to learn.
  - From Others
  - From God’s Word (2 Tim 3:16)
- Be willing to share with others what you have learned.