Our Job Descriptions

A Study through the book of Ephesians

Ephesians 4:11-13

Every Christian, from seasoned saint to beginning believer has a very important job to do for the health of the local church. This includes you! What is it? Let's talk about this today.

As we continue our journey in the book of Ephesians, we are currently navigating through the fourth chapter. Remember the whole point of this fourth chapter is found in the first verse, how we are to live a life worthy of the calling we have received.

Today, our study focus is on Ephesians 4:11-13 and how living our life worthy of the calling we received includes fulfilling the job descriptions it gives us for the health of our church.

In our passage, we are going to find that the church that Jesus builds, comprise of two types of laborers, servant leaders and ministry workers. Each believer is tasked with being one or the other of these. Let's unpack these verses to learn what our assignments are:

Ephesians 4:11, "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,"

Remember the context of our passage is in verse 8, where in Jesus' ascension to heaven He led captives in His train, and gave gifts to men. Verse 11 are part of those gifts.

Here, we begin with the servant leaders. Notice the word "gave" it is past tense. What He gave are the five different servant leader designations that He will assign to those who have a vocational calling on their life.

It is important that we first recognize that each of these servant leader designations are actually what Jesus is called in His ministry roles.

Jesus is called the Apostle in Heb. 3:1. He is called The Prophet in Deut. 18:15. He is the Evangelist proclaiming the good news see Luke 4:18. He called Himself the Good Shepherd in John 10:1 (shepherd is the same word as pastor). And He called Himself Teacher in John 13:14.

This means each of these designations is an extension of Jesus' ministry through His servant leaders. Apostle means "one sent" to do a Kingdom task, like a missionary. Prophet means one who by God foretells the future and or forth-tells a right now word that God is speaking.

Evangelist is literally a herald, one who brings and proclaims God's good news. Pastor literally means shepherd, one who leads, feeds, corrects and protects the sheep. Teacher is understood as a master teacher, one who is gifted to fully explain the truths of God's Word.

It is important to understand that a vocational servant leader is not just one of these as if it is their sole title for life.

The servant leader can function in each of these as the Lord leads them at a particular time and setting. Paul understood this when he said in ***2 Timothy 1:11, "And of this gospel I was appointed a herald (evangelist), and an apostle and a teacher."***

Ephesians 4:12, "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."
Notice the servant leaders are the ones who prepare God's people. And it's God's people who are the ones who do works of service. The result is that the body of Christ is built up.

Concerning the job description of servant leaders preparing God's people, the word "prepare" (kat-ar-tis-mas) was a Greek word used to mean fully restoring and fully supplying. It was used to describe fully restoring fishing nets so they can be used again (clean them, mend them etc.). Also, this word was used to describe fully supplying a ship for its journey.

This brings us to the job description of the ministry workers (God's people), it is found in the phrase "works of service." Throughout the New Testament this phrase has been translated in three main ways: serving, ministering, and giving.

When every one of us are doing our part according to the Word of God and the Spirit of God, our church gets built up to be who we are meant to be: A temple where God resides, a place where Jesus comes through, a light to our world around us.

Ephesians 4:13, "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."
This verse spells out what happens when each one of us carries out our job descriptions, whether it is being a vocational servant leader or a ministry worker.

When we are doing our jobs, we reach unity in THE faith (notice the definite article "the"). This is talking about those Biblical – doctrinal truths that comprise the authentic Christian faith. The goal is that we are unified in our mutual adherence to these truths.

Plus, when we are doing our jobs, we also reach unity in our knowledge of God's Son - Jesus. In other words, knowing and experiencing everything the Bible tells us concerning who Jesus is, what He taught, what He did, what He is doing now and what He will be doing in the future.

Finally, when we are all doing our jobs, we become mature. Spiritual maturity is described as attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Jesus. In other words, our lives experiencing Jesus' shared qualities, receiving everything Jesus wants to give to us and sharing everything Jesus wants to express through us.

How blessed we are to be given purpose in the jobs Jesus assigns to us for His church! Be open to giving yourself away. Talk to one of our team how you may serve in our church, and let's grow together!