

Equipping the Church for The Great Commission on a Global Scale (Ephesians 4:11–16)

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Introduction

[Ephesians 4:11–16] 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Key question from Ephesians 4:11–16:

How should God’s church walk worthily of His call so that it is equipped to replicate disciple making all over the world for multiple generations?

Three necessities to outfit the church for The Great Commission:

I. Gifted pastors to equip the church (4:11–12)

A. Christ gave gifts to each believer for the edification of the church (4:7, 11–12)

B. **The Great Commission:** replicate Ephesians 4:11–16 in churches all over the world

- C. Christ gave pastors as a gift, to equip you to do the work of service (ministry) and to build up the body of Christ (4:12; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 2). Pastors have a threefold purpose: “to equip the saints,” “for the work of service,” “for the building up of the body of Christ” (4:12).

- D. Believers are equipped with their spiritual gift to apply Scripture to a specific service that God gives to build up the body of Christ.

- E. “Equip,” “make ready,” “perfection or completion,” “to make perfect,” “set a bone.”

II. Gifted pastors to unify and defend the church (13–14)

- A. How long/for what purpose will pastors equip the saints for the work of service (4:13)?

- B. The unity of “_____ faith,” not “a faith,” not “many faiths” (Jn 14:6, 17:23; Acts 4:12)

- C. Pastors/teachers boldly declare what the Bible says, and what it means by what it says

- D. Shepherds defend the church with sound biblical content so that believers will not be deceived by false teachers (4:14; Acts 20:26–32; 2 Tim. 4:1–5; Jude 3)

III. Gifted pastors equip each member to grow the church (15–16)

- A. Maturity requires speaking the truth in love (4:15). It is “loving” to speak the truth (Ro. 10; John 15:18; Gal. 4:16)

- B. Truth spoken in love is what causes believers to grow in Christ (4:15)

- C. Teaching truth unifies believers so that the whole church is held together by every serving member (4:16)

- D. Each individual member causes the growth of the body as it builds one another up in love (4:16)

- E. This is The Great Commission Strategy. This is Jesus’ method for church growth to reach all the world’s ethnicities with the gospel. There is NO “Plan B!”

Discussion Questions:

—Why are trained godly pastors vital to The Great Commission?

—What is unity in THE faith? And why is it required for successful ministry?

—How are believers equipped to do the work of the ministry locally, and around the world?