

GIFTED FOR GLORIFYING GOD 3

February 21, 2010

The Purpose of SERVING – Ephesians 4:11-16

Verse 11

Gifts for Administering the Word:

- Apostles and Prophets: foundational recipients (Eph 2:19-21; 3:5)
- Evangelists: for intensive and extensive growth (cf. Acts 21:8; 2 Tim 4:5)
- Pastors and Teachers: overlapping roles (cf. 1 Tim. 5:17)

Verse 12

Ministry of the Word exists to **EQUIP** God's people for works of service (cf. 2 Tim 3:16-17).

- Preaching/teaching isn't for the minister or his hearers, but for the body
- We are accountable for using our equipment

Works of service exist to **BUILD UP** the body of Christ.

- Bodybuilding depends on all members using their equipment
- SERVING brings intensive and extensive growth

Verse 13

Building the body has a goal (stated in three different ways):

1. **UNITY** in the faith *and* in the knowledge of the Son of God
 - Both are necessary pursuits for believers
2. Becoming a **MATURE** (or full-grown) man
 - "to a mature man" (NAS); "to mature manhood" (ESV)
3. Corporately attaining complete **CHRIST-LIKENESS**
 - The corporate Christ should pursue the personal Christ's perfection

Verse 14

Pursuing maturity together will **PROTECT** the body from being led astray as individuals.

- We must spur one another on towards maturity (cf. Heb 10:19-26)

Verse 15

Lovingly speaking the **TRUTH** to one another will cause us to grow up as a body into Christ.

- Eph 1:13- the gospel; 6:14- girding our loins against attack

Verse 16

Christ is not only the goal for the body, but is the **SOURCE** of growth.

- He provides all that is needed for our united nourishment and progress
- We all have a part to play as equipped by the Holy Spirit
- The most gifted servant must serve in love or it is in vain (cf. 1 Cor 13)

Three 'Dares' for You This Week

1. Share with and invite someone to join you in your spiritual growth.¹
2. Share with and invite someone to join you on your ministry team.²
3. Earnestly pray for our body to unite together towards mature growth.

Ephesians 4:11-16

- 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,
- 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up
- 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.
- 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.
- 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
- 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

¹ Don't have a spiritual growth plan? Talk to a pastor or elder and pray for someone to invite you to join them.

² Don't have a ministry team? Talk to a pastor or elder and pray for someone to invite you to join them.