

Preparing God's People

Ephesians 4:11-16

I. The Foundation (vs. 11)

A. Gifted people

Spiritual gifts are given for the good of the Christian community

1 Peter 4:10-11

B. Gifted leaders

II. The Plan (vs. 12a)

A. Leaders equip God's people

"to equip his people for works of service"

Equip – (katartismos) – "to put right"; to perfect what is lacking

Our job as church leaders is to make sure that you are healed, trained, encouraged, empowered and prepared to serve God as he has gifted you.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 4:12

B. God's people use their SHAPE to serve

1. **Spiritual Gifts** – gifts supernaturally given

2. **Heart** – Passions God places on my heart, things I care deeply about (**Ezra 1:5**)

3. **Abilities** – God-given talents or skills that assist in areas of ministry (**Psalms 78:72**)

4. **Personalities** – How God has hard-wired me.

5. **Experiences** – things that God has allowed in my life-even difficult things

III. The Goal (vs. 12a -15)

A. Edification ("built up")

B. Unity

1. in faith

2. in the knowledge of Christ (**Philippians 3:10**)

C. Maturity –

1. Christ-likeness (**Romans 8:28-29**)

2. Stability (vs. 14)

A stable believer will be able to stand against the trickery of man or the schemes of the Devil

3. Authentic love (vs. 15) – "truthing in love"

Proverbs 27:6

IV. The Result (vs. 16)

A. Greater dependence – "From Him..."

Colossians 2:19

The power in the church flows from the Lord, through individual believers and in relationship between believers.

B. Greater ministry – "each part does its work"

Ephesians 2:10