

Ephesians Series

15

A Helping Hand

Chap 4 : 11 - 16

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12** Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. **13** This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. **15** Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. **16** He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

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Q : Where are the three different "gift lists" in the bible? How does each one differ from the other and what is unique about those who receive the 5 gifts listed here?

Q : Why do you think Jesus distributes the five ministry gifts out to different people rather than depositing all the 5 gifts into one person?

Q : Who is a minister you know who is an evangelist? What about a minister who is a teacher/pastor? What about one you know who is a prophet? How have these individuals impacted your life through their gifting?

12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Q : How does this passage change our understanding of the role of a minister in the church?

Q : How does this passage change your understanding of your role in the church and world?

13 until we all reach unity (a) in the faith and (b) in the knowledge of the Son of God and (c) become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **14** We will no longer be babies in the faith. We won't be like ships tossed around by the waves. (a) We won't be blown here and there by every new teaching. We won't be blown around by cleverness and tricks. Certain people use them to hide their evil plans. **15** Instead, (b) we will speak the truth in love. So we will grow up in every way to become the body of Christ.

Q : How do maturity in doctrine, experience, and character go hand in hand with unity in the body?

Christ is the head of the body. **16** He makes the whole body grow and build itself up in love. Under the control of Christ, each part of the body does its work. It supports the other parts. In that way, the body is joined and held together.

Q : What examples can you think of where the people of the church "build the church up" rather than the leaders or a move of the spirit doing it?

Q : What is this way more powerful than paid clergy building the church?