

I. Equippers Given - Ephesians 4:11

1. Given by Christ “Himself” - personally
- Rea -intentionally - carries the idea of “hand-picked”
2. The gifts:
 - A. Apostles
 - Rea Used in two senses
 - 1) the twelve - first
 - 2) the others who were “sent”
 - compare the use of the word “apostle” in chapter 14 of Acts
 - B. Prophets
 - forth telling and foretelling - both are valid uses of this gift
 - C. Evangelists
 - gifted to proclaim the gospel to the lost - those outside the church
 - compare the “work” of an evangelist with the office/ role of evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5)
 - D. Pastors and teachers
 - Pastor’s role:
 - 1) to shepherd the congregation
 - 2) to teach the church - the one with the primary responsibility of teaching the church
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Do these gifts proclaim what God thinks are important?
 2. The word “assigned” is a good one - it is used in the military world. A soldier gets an assignment - he does not question, but takes that as his/ her role.
 3. Equipped for what?
 - see verses 12ff

II. To Move Believers Forward - Ephesians 4:12-14

1. For what purpose? (Verses 12-13)
 - A. To equip his people for service
 - To build up the body
 - Rea B. If the church is not “serving” what does that say about the gift, or the use of it?
 - The same questions might be raised about “building” up the church.
 - the gifts exist for the use of the church
2. How long, or to what extent - till we all reach unity in faith
3. The work of leaders is not to do service but to equip others to do it
- Rea -not sure I agree - we should be the examples of service - instead of CEOs
4. “Service” is the same word used for “deacon” - the servant role
- Rea -not the office of “deacon” but the work of being a deacon
- Rea -not every is qualified, nor requested to occupy the role/office, but all are expected to be servants
5. We want to:
 - A. Reach unity of the faith
 - Rea B. Become mature - into a “perfect” man (KJV)

- C. To reach the full measure of the fullness of Christ
- 6. The end result - no longer push back and forward (verse 14)
 - A. No longer infants
 - B. Battered back and forth by waves
 - C. Blown hither and yon
 - D. Deceived by “crafty” teaching

Rea -false teachers are often very clever

Rea -do you expect your pastor to be “clever?” - do sermons need to have
rhythm and alliteration?”

- 7. The end is that we edify ourselves in love - as each does their job (**verses 15-16**)
 - the idea here is that we have the gifts we need to grow, and build ourselves up

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

- 1. Overall the pattern is growth - growing believers, yield a growing church - and this is not numerical growth
- 2. Growth might be defined as “maturity” in these verses - is your church body mature?
- 3. All these gifts are focused on the growth of the individuals within the church - pastor/teacher is last - my experience has been that if the entire church is growing (individually) there is little need of CEO type leadership. All of us are servants!

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