

Every Member a Minister
Ephesians 4: 11-14

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1. What do you think of when you hear the word "church?" This church is much more than a place to sing Sunday morning songs and hear a Sunday morning message. It is a community of believers, alive in the Spirit committed to lovingly sharing the truths of God's Word as it makes disciples.

2. Today we are going to learn how God wants to build His body, His church. We are going to examine His PLAN, PURPOSE and POWER in building His body.

I. Every Believer Has Gifts. Eph. 4: 7-10

A What are spiritual gifts?

1. **Matt. 25; Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12: 4-7,11; Eph. 4: 11.**

B Spiritual gifts come from Jesus (vv.8-10).

1. This is an O.T. comparison to a conquering King who gives gifts (v.8).

II. This is God's Plan For Building the Body. Eph. 4: 12

A God's plan is for believers to be equipped for ministry.

1. Every believer is a "minister" (lit. "Servant") and every believer needs to be equipped to serve God.

2. Somewhere in church history there developed a notion of a clergy --- those paid to do ministry --- and a laity --- those who receive the ministry.

3. What about this word translated "equipping."

4. Let me suggest four basic tools that God uses to equip us.

1. First, God uses THE WORD. (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

2. Second, God uses PRAYER. (**Col. 4:12**).

3. Third, God uses TRIALS. (**James 1:2-4**)

4. Fourth, God uses SUFFERING. (**1 Pet. 5:10**)

5. The more of us who are equipped, the stronger the body, the church becomes.

B God's plan is for believers to be working.

1. The job of the evangelist and pastor-teacher is to join God in "the equipping of the saints!"

C God's plan is for believers to be edified.

III. God's Purpose in Building the Body. Eph. 4: 13-15

A PURPOSE #1: Unity of the Faith.

B PURPOSE #2: Knowledge of Jesus.

C PURPOSE #3: Spiritual Maturity.

D PURPOSE #4: Sound Doctrine.

E PURPOSE #5: Genuine Loving Attitude.