

WHY GROW
UP?

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

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11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:11-16 - continued

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Introduction

A. God has a team assigned to bring us to maturity

B. God's purpose is to build up the body of Christ

Ephesians 2:21

**In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth
unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

I. Who Is To Do The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

A. The saints are to do the work of the ministry

1 Corinthians 16:10

Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also *do*.

B. Churches can reverse this divine plan

I. Who Is To Do The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

C. Too many Christians are but paying spectators

2 Timothy 4:5

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

D. What is the result of this backward plan

E. We must get back to God's plan: all believers ministering

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

A. The ministry is anything that builds up the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 14:12

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

B. The ministry is caring for the afflicted

1. Comforting the sick and sorrowing

1 Thessalonians 5:11-14

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

B. The ministry is caring for the afflicted

1. Comforting the sick and sorrowing

1 Thessalonians 5:11-14 - continued

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

B. The ministry is caring for the afflicted - continued

2. Visiting the fatherless and widows

James 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Acts 6:1

And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

C. The ministry is caring for physical needs of believers

1. Paul distributing to the necessity of saints

Romans 12:13

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

2. Ministering to the poor saints in Jerusalem

Romans 15:25-26

25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

D. The ministry is caring for the spiritual needs of believers

1. Ministering to those overtaken by a fault

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

D. The ministry is caring for the spiritual needs of believers - continued

2. Ministering is encouraging one another

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

II. What Is The Work Of The Ministry? (v 12)

E. Ministering is evangelizing

Acts 8:5-8

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

III. What Happens When We All Do The Work Of The Ministry? (vv 13-16)

A. The church is unified (v 13)

B. Believers become Christ-like (v 13)

C. Christians become solid in faith and doctrine (v 14)

D. The church is protected from false teaching (v 14)

E. Love flows through all preaching and teaching (v 15)

**F. The church grows and is known for fellowship and love
(v 16)**

**Let us follow God's plan for His
church**