

Ephesians 4:11-16

Equipping the Saints

Points to Consider

1. Equipping and Being Equipped
2. The Results of a Well-Equipped Saint
3. How we Equip One Another

Equipped and Being Equipped

Eph 4:11- Christ is the One who gave different roles to different people to accomplish specific goals.

1 Cor 12:4-19 - The _____ distributed spiritual gifts as He willed (11),
God set the members in the body as He _____ (18).

When each one of us uses our God-given talents and abilities in an attitude of humility, then the body will fulfill its God-given responsibility.

Eph 4:12 ...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... NIV

The goal is for God's people to be _____ or equipped for doing works of service.

In Matthew 4:21 James and John were _____ their nets. They were mending their nets, so the nets would be able to do what the nets were built to do, catch fish.

In Luke 6:40 Jesus says that those who are **made** _____ are like their master.

In Hebrews 11:3 we are told that the worlds were _____ by the word of God.

Eph 2:10 - God knew the works He wanted His people to do _____ the foundation of the world.

Heb 10:23-25 - We have been created for good works, and we are together as a local fellowship, in part, to _____ and prepare one another to do those good works.

...for the edifying of the body of Christ

Rom 14:19-20 *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.* NKJV

Rom 15:1-6 *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* NKJV

1 Cor 14:12 *Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.* NKJV

Eph 4:16 ... from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Eph 4:29 *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.* NKJV

_____ one of us should do what we can to build up the body of Christ.

We edify the body when we _____ the body, _____ the body, edify individual members of the body, and when we _____ edifying words.

Practical Application: You must be here and be involved to equip and be equipped. I encourage everyone to participate in our Bible classes. They are one way we equip and are equipped by others.

The Result of a Well Equipped Saint

Eph 4:13- We all need to come to the _____ of the faith.

We all need to come to a _____ of the Son of God.

We all need to be growing with the goal of becoming a _____ man.

We all need to come to the measure of the stature of the _____ of Christ.

We all need to come to a point where we are not _____ tricked by men preaching false doctrine.

False teachers

Acts 20:25-31 - Paul knew that Satan was going to try and influence this church by allowing _____ teachers to enter the church and draw Saints _____ from the truth.

Acts 13:6-12 - Elymas was attempting to turn Sergius Paulus away from the _____.

Remember that in Ephesians 4:14 we are told to come to the unity of the faith.

What was it that persuaded Sergius Paulus? The miracle helped, but it was the _____ of the Lord that astonished him. The miracle affirmed the teaching.

2 Peter 2:1-3 - As long as there is truth, there will be _____ teachers.

Peter says that _____ is sometimes a motivation for false teaching.

Eph 4:15-16 - Every member doing their part causes the body to _____.

How?

Paul gave the antidote for false teachers. The antidote is faith and knowledge. He told the elders in Acts 20 that he proclaimed to them the whole council of God and that he warned _____ night and day with tears.

In Acts 2:40-47 we learn that the early church spent time in the Apostle's doctrine and in the temple studying.

Col 1:27-29 *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.* NKJV

A major component in presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus is to preach Christ and _____ every man in all wisdom.

Paul said that this was his life's work and was only accomplished through _____ working that worked in him mightily.

Col 1:9-11 *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and **increasing** in the knowledge of God;* NKJV

We become fruitful for good works as we _____ in the knowledge of God. The word “increase” in Col 1:10 is the same word as “grow” in Ephesians 4:15.

Col 2:18-19 *Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, **grows** with the increase that is from God.* NKJV

Growth is from God. If we all do our part God will cause the body to grow.

1 Cor 3:5-8 *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the **increase**. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who **gives the increase**. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.* NKJV

When we do our part to teach the lost, God does His part and causes the increase. (Same word)

2 Tim 4:1-5 *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* NKJV

Paul charged Timothy to preach and _____ the word of God. This is how he would fulfill his ministry.

1 Tim 4:6 *If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.... 11 These things command and teach.* NKJV

Instructing, commanding, and teaching are things Timothy needed to do to be a good _____ of Jesus Christ.

Practical Application – Ask three people to fill out an “Edification Survey” that will be available after services this evening. Use the results of that survey to start building them up.

The Faith

Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were **obedient to the faith**. NKJV

Acts 14:22 ...strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to **continue in the faith**, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." NKJV

Acts 16:5 So the churches were **strengthened in the faith**, and increased in number daily. NKJV

Romans 1:5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for **obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name, NKJV

Romans 14:1 Receive one who is **weak in the faith**, but not to disputes over doubtful things. NKJV

Romans 16:26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith** — NKJV

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, **stand fast in the faith**, be brave, be strong. NKJV

2 Corinthians 13:5 **Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith**. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified. NKJV

Galatians 1:23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now **preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy**." NKJV

Ephesians 4:13 till we all come to the **unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; NKJV

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together for the faith of the gospel**, NKJV

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you **continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the **hope of the gospel which you heard**, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and **established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. NKJV

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, NKJV

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has **denied the faith** and is worse than an unbeliever. NKJV

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some **have strayed from the faith** in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. NKJV

1 Timothy 6:21 by professing it some have **strayed concerning the faith**. Grace be with you. Amen. NKJV

2 Timothy 2:18 who have **strayed concerning the truth**, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they **overthrow the faith of some**. NKJV

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have **kept the faith**. NKJV

Titus 1:13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may **be sound in the faith**, NKJV

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, **steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. NKJV

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints**. NKJV