

Message Series:

Membership Has Its Privileges: Walking with Christ A Study of Ephesians 4-6

“Body Life”

Sunday, March 14, 2010

¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³This 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 (Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT).

Today’s Main Thought: God has lavishly provided ministry gifts to the body of Jesus Christ to equip and build up the saints.

Those given the privilege to minister in the midst of God’s people are to...

- **Prepare God’s people for works of service.**
 - Walking in a worthy manner; modeling for the body how to “mend or prepare their nets” (Matthew 4:21-22; John 4:7-30, 39-42).
 - Mobilizing saints to serve others in & outside of the church (2 Tim 2:2).
- **Assist building up the body of Jesus Christ.**
 - Restoring mankind to their proper status children of God (Gal 6:1; 1 John 3:1-2)
 - Warning saints against the temptations of sin (1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 1 Tim 5:19-22; Titus 3:10-11)

- **Continue praying, teaching, coaching, encouraging, correcting and preaching until the body of Christ achieves God’s ultimate purposes.**
- **Saints serving the Lord and others must seek:**
 - Unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:7, 16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - Knowledge of the Son of God (Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 2)

Getting Started

Read Ephesians 4:7-16 and 1 Cor. 12:1-12. God has given each believer at least one spiritual gift*, and this gift is to be used for the unifying and edifying (building up) of the body of Christ.

**A spiritual gift is a God-given ability to serve God and other Christians in such a way that Christ is glorified and believers are edified.*

Digging Deeper

How does a follower of Christ discover and develop his/her gifts? Discuss this question with your pack partner, 710 Group, or with the Wednesday Night Alive Bible study small group.

Followers of Jesus Christ can develop theirs gifts by fellowshipping with other Christians in the local assembly.

Living It Out

Discover your spiritual gift(s) if you are unaware of your gifts please take the gift assessment Uniquely You. Please contact Pastor Tom McElroy to procure a gift assessment.

Next Week:

Prayer Check Up: Pray! Don’t Let Up! (2 Chronicles 20)
Pastor Rodney Lara