

Christ Gave Teachers

For Building Up His Body, the Church

Ephesians 4:11-16: By Larry Bailey

Introduction: Christ, Head and Savior of His Body, the Church, Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:23. The Church is the fullness of Christ, and brings glory to God, Ephesians 3:10, 20. Matthew 16:18 is fulfilled! Christ's body, the saved, is NOW!

The church is also seen in local congregations, Acts 8:1; 13:1, etc. Christ's plan is for this church to be COMPLETE and reflect the glory of God, Ephesians 4:11-16.

Let's study Ephesians 4:11-16, in order to understand what Christ has given to make His church complete.

I. What Christ Gave

- A. Apostles / Prophets / Evangelists / Pastors / Teachers
- B. His Word, the Gospel, John 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (Note: Christ filled each of these roles and work: Heb. 3:1; Heb. 1:1, 2; Luke 4:16-21; 1 Peter 2:25; John 13:13).

II. The Word Will:

- A. Equip the Saints
 - 1. for the work of ministry ("to equip God's people for work in His service, New English Bible) 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:11; 2 Timothy 4:2, 5 (Ministry, service – Matthew 20:28; John 13:13-16; Acts 6:2, 3, 4; Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 13:16).
 - 2. Edify (building up) the body, 1 Corinthians 3:5-17, esp. v. 9; Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 14:26
- B. Bring us:
 - 1. To UNITY of faith, Ephesians 4:1-6
 - 2. KNOWLEDGE of the Son of god
 - 3. COMPLETE man (fullness of Christ) Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-11, 28, 29; 2:8, 9
- C. Keep us from being tossed to and fro by false doctrines (deceit), Ephesians 4:14, 22; Revelation 12:9; 1 Cor. 15:33; Cal. 6:7; James 1:26; Heb. 3:13
- D. Teach us to speak truth in love, 1 Timothy 1:14, 15, 16; 2 Corinthians 4:1
- E. Cause us to:
 - 1. Grow up in Christ
 - 2. Knit body together (Col. 2:2, 6, 7, 8, 8)
 - 3. Every part to do its share of work, Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 - 4. Body built up in love, 1 Timothy 1:5

Conclusion: What does Christ WANT HIS CHURCH TO BE? – He revealed the answer in the Word – which is taught by faithful Christians (2 Timothy 2:2). As each member receives these instructions and puts them into practice, which is a daily work on our parts, then the whole body will profit and grow into the complete body that Christ desires.

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