



## **Total Team Effort**

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

## **SERMON SUMMARY**

### **The Lie: Ministry is for the minister**

- A common lie we may believe is that only the leaders of the church can do ministry

### **The Truth: We are all called to ministry**

- See v11, Paul lists out many different roles of the church
  - Apostle = one who is sent out
  - prophet = one who speaks for God
  - evangelists = one who proclaims the good news
  - pastor / teachers = shepherds of God's people
- See v12, he continues to say that all these list of people are there to equip others for the work of ministry. Therefore, we as the body of Christ are all called to be ministers of Christ.
  - Everyone's capacity for ministry and spiritual gifts are different

- Church isn't a spectator sport
  - Jesus performed miracles outside of the church
  - We are called to go out into the world
  - Real spiritual growth doesn't happen within the walls of a Sunday service, but in living life with those around us
- We minister so that we may grow up (v14) and can respond rightly to lies that Satan feeds us
- See v15, so how do we minister? Speak truth in love
  - Some verses to consider: Colossians 3:16, Romans 15:14, Hebrews 3:12
- **For the church to operate at its full potential, each of us must minister to one another**

#### **Threats to biblical ministry:**

- **Consumer Christianity**
  - Consumerism drives us to selfishness
  - The church isn't selling you a product and you aren't a customer
  - Be careful to not fall into the trap of wanting to be entertained rather than wanting to be disciplined into the image of Christ
- **Loveless truth**
  - Speaking truth without love is painful and brutal
  - Displaying love without truth is hypocritical
  - Instead, remember that God doesn't just tolerate us, He loves us and we should act in the same way to those around us (resolve conflict, mentor, encourage...etc)
- **Overloaded schedule**
  - Leave space in your life to take hold of opportunities to minister

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!
- Set aside a time to pray for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly recap how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who

needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?

- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions: 1) What is God saying to me in His Word?, 2) What is He asking me to do in response?
  - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?
- What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?
- How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?

## **QUESTIONS**

**Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!**

**Getting to know you:**

- Think of the churches you have been a part of in your life, how would you describe them?
- What does church mean to you?
- How have you experienced spiritual growth and what were the circumstances surrounding it?

**Into the Bible:**

- What are the different metaphors the Bible uses to describe the church?
- What are obstacles in your life right now, that hinder you from ministering to others?
  - How can you overcome these obstacles?
- What does consumer Christianity look like?
- What does it mean to speak truth in love?
  - Why can't we speak truth without love? Or show love without truth?
- Write down your schedule for the next week
  - Are you overloaded? Where in your schedule can you set some time to minister or what are things you can take away in order to make time?
- Read Galatians 5:13-14
  - What are moments you find yourself being selfish with your time and how can you change this mindset?
- What are your spiritual gifts and how can you use them to minister to others?

**Actions Questions:**

- What are ways you can minister this week to those around you?
  - Think of your family, friends, partner, small group, work, classmates, church
- Who will you minister to this week by speaking truth in love?

**Pray:**

- Pray that your heart will be open to ways that God can use you to minister
- If there is someone in your life God is calling you to minister to, pray that you can take the opportunities to do so

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****College:**

- Epic's Halloween Party is on October 31st, 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the APCC
- Epic large group is on Thursday at MU113

**All church:**

- We have a church app now! Go to the app store to download, search "Grant Avenue"
- Grant Ave's Fall Festival is on October 27th from 4-6pm
- Men's camping trip is October 25-27