

Building My Relationship with God

Series: Building for the Future

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until 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 men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From 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.*

1. GOD GIVES LEADERS TO THE CHURCH TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.

vv. 11-12 "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- God gives leaders responsibility not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the Church.
- Leaders are not there to do the ministry, but to equip the members to do the ministry.
- Ministry is the primary tool that God uses to mature the Church.

2. THE GOAL FOR EVERY BELIEVER IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

v. 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."

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation . . .

- The degree of unity in the body of Christ is connected to the degree of maturity.
- I must take personal responsibility to build my relationship with God.
- Without spiritual growth, I never receive all that God has for me.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO BUILD MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD APART FROM THE CHURCH.

v. 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."

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

- While I have a responsibility to grow as a Christian, it does not happen apart from the Body of Christ.
- God never intended for me to do life outside the community.
- The church needs me just as much as I need the church.

From the moment I am born again, I begin my journey toward becoming an authentic follower of Jesus Christ.