

Equip- Part 1 Study Guide

Big Idea: The Church exists for the glory of God and the fullness of the believer.

A. God's Glory

According to Ephesians 3:20-4:1...

"Now to him...be glory in the church...I therefore beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling."

...the church exists for the glory of God.

How can 'self-centered' Church involvement undermine the 'worthiness' of Christ and His Church? Discuss. How do Christ-centered and others-centered Churches elevate the glory of God? Discuss.

B. Our Fullness

Read Ephesians 4:11-13:

"And he gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

1. What do you think God wants the Body of Christ to be doing?

2. Notice that non-disciples were named as apostles in the New Testament (Apollos, Barnabas and Silas). See also that believers are to seek the prophetic.

1 Cor. 14:1- *"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy."* How can apostles and prophets still be relevant today in equipping the church?

3. Evangelists have a unique gift of communicating the good news in relevant terms. However, all believers are called to evangelism, the *"ministry of reconciliation."* (2 Cor. 5:18). How can people with the gift of evangelism, help others in the church to be equipped to share their faith?

4. Shepherd/Teachers are gifted by God to care for and teach the "flock". How can they help others in the church to be equipped to do works of ministry? How can this equipping happen in the context of Community Groups and Congregational led ministries?

5. Where do you see yourself in the process of equipping each other? Do you need to be equipped, or are you currently equipping someone else for ministry?

Message Slides

Equip 1- August 2022

Report on Elder Retreat

1. Radical Generosity
2. Mission Hubs
3. Future Growth
4. Fellows Program
5. Organic Outreach

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I. For God's Glory

Ephesians 3:20-4:1

"Now to him...be **glory** in the church...I therefore beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling."

II. For Our Fullness

A. Connection

Eph. 1:22b-23- "...the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Ephesians 4:13

"...¹³ until we all attain **to** the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to** maturity, **to** the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,"

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the **habit of some**, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Acts 2:42+46a, 47

"And they **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...⁴⁶ And day by day, **attending the temple together** and breaking bread **in their homes** ...⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added** to their number day by day those who were **being saved**."

One Another's:

"Welcome one another..." (Romans 15:7)

"Address one another with psalms...spiritual songs..." (Ephesians 5:19)

"Pray for one another..." (James 5:16)

"Love one another..." (John 13:34)

"Be devoted to one another..." (Romans 12:10)

"Serve one another..." (Galatians 5:13)

"Speak the truth to one another..." (Ephesians 4:25)

"Bear one another's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)

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B. Equipping

Ephesians 4:11-12

"¹¹And he gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, ¹²**to equip the saints** for the work of ministry, for building up the **body** of Christ,"

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B. Equipping

1 Corinthians 12:7

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**."

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1. Apostles and Prophets- What are they?

a. Founded the Church

Ephesians 2:20

"...built on the **foundation** of the **apostles** and **prophets**, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone."

b. Declared Revelations

Ephesians 3:5

"which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

c. Gave Confirmation

2 Cor. 12:11b-12

"For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works."

1. Apostles and Prophets- How do they equip?

1 Corinthians 14:1

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy."

1 Corinthians 14:4b

"...but the one who prophesies builds up the church."

2. Evangelists- Bearers of good news.

- a. The church is gifted with Evangelists.
- b. All believers are called to evangelism.

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- b. All believers are called to evangelism.

c. The church should do things in evangelistic ways.

3. Shepherd (Pastor)/Teachers-

- a. Care

1 Pet. 5:2- "Shepherd the flock..."

- b. Teach

John 21:17 "Feed my sheep."

2 Tim. 3:16-17- "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training** in righteousness, that the person of God may be complete, **equipped** for every good work."

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