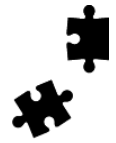


WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH



Lesson 6: The Edification of the Church

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. **The tools:** As her Head (Ephesians 1:22–23), Jesus Christ provides gifted individuals to build up His church—**Ephesians 4:11**.
 - a. Apostles were those who had seen the risen Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1), had been personally commissioned by Him (Matthew 10:1–2), and were able to perform signs and wonders as authenticating marks of their calling (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3–4).
 - b. Prophets were given the ability to receive direct revelation from God and present it to others—**1 Corinthians 14:1–5**.

Since the church is built "on the foundation of the apostles and prophets," we still receive spiritual direction and sustenance from them in the New Testament, even though these two "foundational" gifts are no longer being given—**Ephesians 2:20**.
 - c. Evangelists have the ability to present the gospel message with exceptional power and a consuming burden for unbelievers.
 - d. Pastor-teachers have the ability to lead God's people and shepherd them by providing a balanced diet from the Word of God.
- II. **The goal:** The Savior provides gifted individuals to His church to ready and train His people to minister—**Ephesians 4:12**.
 - a. We often need to be brought to a healthier state before we can be trained.
 - b. Then, we need to be trained to minister effectively.
 - c. The ultimate trajectory of our training is ministry to people.
 - d. We are to minister to others with the intention of building up the church.
- III. **The outcome:** Mutual ministry is intended to stimulate the assimilation of the Scriptures and the cultivation of Christ-like maturity—**Ephesians 4:13**.
- IV. **The manifestation:** Christ-like unity and maturity will be manifested in three ways—**Ephesians 4:14–16**.
 - a. We will avoid doctrinal instability and stand firm in the truth—**Ephesians 4:14**.
 - b. We will speak the truth in love to promote deeper relationships with Christ—**Ephesians 4:15**.
 - c. The Lord will channel our commitment and ministries to build His church—**Ephesians 4:16**.