

4:11-13¹

He [Jesus, antecedent in 4:7] Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. 12 For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Remember Ephesians 1:22-23 tells us that the **body** “is the church,” and **edify** is a construction term and it has the idea of “building.”

What people has the body been gifted with to help them be built up or edified? **apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.** We are stronger and more built up as a church because of gifts from Christ and these gifts are.

So whatever church is, it is an orderly (1 Corinthians 14:40), regular (1 Corinthians 16:1) time of worship (see this explicitly in 1 Corinthians 14) among the believers. If all we had was believers worshipping on Sunday, we could say it is because they were in synagogues on Saturday, but the fact that the Corinthian church was predominately Gentiles should tell us it is more than a “thing” Jewish believers did.²

It appears that some of the events we would find in worship are also found in Ephesians 5:19-20. These activities are at least distinctions to the “secularization” where pagans would feel welcome in churches.³ One might notice from this passage that believers are the primary recipients of the assembled **body** life of what we typically call church.⁴

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith ^pand of the knowledge of the Son of God, to ^qa perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; There shouldn't be, then, an obvious effort to make unbelievers the aim of our “body life” (regardless of what famous Christian leaders do which seems to work).⁵ After all, whatever “works” is a vanishing fad of the day (1 Corinthians 7:31).

¹See more under 1:2.

²The additions of images and pictures increased when the Barbarians became such a large part of the “growth.” These decorations for their new temples (the first church buildings) “make God seem more accessible;” Earle E Carns *Christianity Through the Centuries, 3rd Edition, Revised and Expanded* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 153. As it applies to images, see my treatment of Colossians 1:15 in my commentary on Colossians. Beyond worship, if somebody wishes to see Christ, they should look no further than His body.

³Carns *Christianity Through the Centuries, 3rd Edition, Revised and Expanded* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996), 152.

⁴This doesn't mean that churches should shun unbelievers to their churches (1 Corinthians 14:23-25).

^p Col. 2:2

^q 1 Cor. 14:20; Col. 1:28; Heb. 5:14

⁵<https://www.christianpost.com/news/andy-stanley-tells-pastors-to-reach-unchurched-people-make-church-appealing-and-engaging-91920/> [accessed 6/28/18].