

Ministry Goals

Ephesians 4:11-16

1. Grow in Biblical Convictions

a. Our text:

- v. 13- *the unity of **the faith** and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God*
~ 4:20-21- *the faith must be learned, heard, taught, because it is truth*
- v. 14-15- *no longer tossed by every wind of **doctrine**....but speaking **the truth**...*

b. Other texts: John 8:32; John 17:17; Matt. 22:29; Matt. 4:4; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 1:1

*Application:

- Learn new evidences and support for those truths you already believe
- Be deepened and strengthened in the truths you already believe
- Grow in your understanding of the Biblical "big picture"
- Growing in your understanding of how various doctrines fit together
- Arrive at new truth
- Arrive at a more balanced sense of the relative importance of truths

2. Grow in Christ-Like Character

a. Our text:

- v. 13- **knowledge** means intimate knowledge, devotion
- **to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ**- a call to perfect conformity to the character of Christ
- v. 15- **speaking the truth** means living out the truth cf. Eph. 4:22-24

b. Other texts: John 13:14, 34; John 15:18 cf. Phil. 3:10; Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 5:1; 1 John 2:6

*Application:

- Consciously keep before you the beauty of Jesus Christ, asking "What did Jesus do"?
- Confess unlikeness to Jesus, calling upon Him for grace to act in a Christ-like way

3. Grow in Ministry Competence

a. Our text:

- v. 11-12- *for the equipping of the saints unto the work of ministry unto the building up...*
- v. 16- the proper working of the whole body is crucial for health and growth

* Application: Ascertain, develop, and use your gifts; find a ministry and have the church pray for it!

4. Grow in (Christian) Community Commitment

a. Our text:

- v. 12- *to the building up of the **body** of Christ*
- v. 13- *until **we all** attain to the unity of the faith*
- v. 15-16- *from whom the **whole body**...causes the growth of the **body***

b. Other texts:

- The metaphors for the church= body, building, family, flock, nation, (corporate) bride
- The goal of our gifts is edification of others: 1 Cor. 12:7, 12-13, 20-21; 14:4,5,12, 18-19
- The many "one-another" privileges and duties

*Application: Grow in the fervency of our love, frequency of interactions, depth of our intimacy, expand in the services rendered to the body, widen the community itself through our witness!