

Church Growth God's Way

(Ephesians 4:7-16)

Intro: The Apostle Paul is very concerned that the Ephesian church maintain unity, but unity alone is not enough. He is also concerned about growth...

Eph. 4:16 "...according to the proper working of each individual part..."
For church health and growth, the individual members are the key...spiritually gifted members. (cp. 1 Pet. 4:10)

1. Summary of Gifts

vs. 7-11

note: All the gifts mentioned here are people...gifted people.

- a. apostles and prophets—for the **FOUNDATION** of the church
- b. evangelists---for the **EXPANSION** of the church
- c. pastor-teachers—for the **STABILITY** of the church

2. Nature of the Gifts

v. 11

They're all **DIFFERENT!**

3. Purposes for the Gifts

vs. 12-16

- a. to **EQUIP THE SAINTS** to do the ministry
- b. to build up the body of Christ (v. 12)
- c. to maintain **UNITY** (v. 13)
- d. to be like **CHRIST** (v. 13)
- e. to develop maturity and stability (vs. 14-16)
- f. for growth in a context of **LOVE** (vs. 15-16)

...Church health, church growth, "according to the proper working of each individual part". Let's do it!

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(CONNECT questions for 4/7)

--Read Ephesians 4:7-16

1. What do spiritual gifts have to do with church health or church growth?

2. What are the advantages of the "every member is a minister" model for doing church?

What problems might arise?

3. What are the advantages of "the pastor is the minister" model for doing church?

What problems might arise?

4. Verses 15 and 16 both mention "love" as being necessary for church health and growth...What does love have to do with it? Truth is truth, right? (v. 15) And, doing the right thing, isn't that what's important? (v. 16)