

Building the Body of Christ, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 4:11-16.

B. There is tremendous emphasis on church growth. The pattern for the progress of the church is in this text.

C. The goal of the church is for the perfection of the saints.

II. The preaching of perfection: the gifted men are charged with building up the saints.

A. Agencies of perfection.

1. The Word. The goal of teaching the Bible is perfection. (Colossians 1:28)

2. Prayer. (Colossians 4)

3. Suffering.

B. Teaching the Word is a tremendous commitment. (1 Timothy 6:4; 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:2)

III. The progress of perfection: the saints are to do the work of the ministry. (2 Peter 1:12)

A. When saints are mature, the ministry is really going.

B. Saints ought to develop a ministry, and when their ministry has developed to the point where it needs support then it should be supported.

IV. The purpose of perfection: the body is edified.

A. Unity of the faith. We must agree about Christ before we can agree in Christ.

B. Knowledge of the Son of God. (Philippians 3)

C. The whole church will come to be like Christ. (1 John 2:6, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

D. Doctrinal solidarity. (Ephesians 6:11)

E. The truth will be spoken in love: evangelism.

Application Questions:

1. Why do ministries that focus on give-aways get it wrong?

2. How can we encourage more focus on teaching the Word of God?

3. How can a church focus on the maturation of every person attending? Explain.
