

How the Church Functions

Ephesians 4:11-13

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Background

This week we conclude our 2-sermon series on how God intends for His church to function, as expressed in Paul's letter to Ephesian church. Ephesians chapter 4 describes some foundational building blocks which contribute to a healthy and vibrant church, and we will focus on a few of these: "Devotion to God's Word", "Participating in God's Work", "Ministry of the Saints". While many of us are familiar with these PBCC Core Values, it is good to review them in the context of Ephesians 4. We hope to see you this Sunday.

Sermon Texts: Eph 4:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, . . .

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Jerry defined spiritual gifts (along with Ray Stedman) as “a capacity for service given to every true Christian.” Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If not, one key idea for discovering Spiritual gifts is to simply jump in and begin serving. In other words, it is through serving that gifts can come to light.
- b. Are you using your spiritual gifts? Why or why not?
- c. Are you involved in a Connection Group? If not, connect with Eugene to find one. The PBCC leadership desires that all people be connected in a small group.
- d. Are you involved in edifying the body (v 12)? Explain.
- e. Jerry defined the four gifts listed in these verses: “*the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers.*” These gifts are important in that they are for equipping the saints. Do you have any questions about these gifts that you would like to discuss further?