

Ephesians 4:11-16. *Roles & Goals*. Some were appointed to be designated messengers, some to be proclaimers, some to be preachers of the good news, some to be senior church leaders (ποιμένας, shepherds) and others to be educators. Their purpose is to prepare the people of the Lord God for serving others—so that the church of the Christ may be built up until we reach:

1. Unity within the faith.
2. Knowledge of the Son of God.
3. Maturity so we have attained the whole measure of Christ's fullness.

Q Which of the offices/roles listed in verse 11 are limited to women? Why?

Q Who is "He" here in verse 11?

Q What is the purpose of each of these roles?

Q And when do we know we've achieved our responsibility in said role...

- ✓ How do we know we have unity in the faith?
- ✓ In the knowledge of the Son of God?
- ✓ Become mature and have attained the whole measure of the Christ's fullness?

Objectives & Results. And here is the result of these works of service... We'll no longer be like the unlearned (νήπιος, 3516) little children easily persuaded from the winds of disparate teachings; for there are the cunningly [κυβεία, dice thrown, 2940] crafty who deceitfully scheme [μεθοδεία]. [To achieve their own objectives?] In contrast, speaking the truth in love, we will all mature together into Him who is the Head [could also be translated "cornerstone"], that is the Christ. Thus, like the human body, from the whole church, we will be joined and held together by every supporting ligament, and grow to build ourselves up in love—as each body part does its work.

Q What's the best example of being a little twerp you've seen in the church?

Q How do you ascertain who these cunningly crafty deceitful teachers are?

Q What have you seen as the best modern example of a deceitful teaching?

Q Why is it difficult to speak truth in love? Truth to power? What happens when we just kowtow to get along?

Q How do we are mature in the body of the Christ; i.e., the church?

Q What ligament have you observed to be strained the most within the church?

Q And now the tough part... Which gender does a poorer job of being a body part within the church? What demographic/generation? What socio-economic grouping? What can we do to do a better job of "building each other up in love?"

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.