

By The Spirit...We Disciple Purposefully!
Text: Ephesians 4: 11-16
October 8, 2022

Big Idea: Jesus builds the Church through intentional discipleship.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Jesus builds His Church through intentional discipleship, we must...

Point 1: EQUIP for His WORK: PREPARATION (vv. 11-12)

Question: Jesus builds His Church through His Word. Will you receive His equipping?

Question #5

- a) What is the purpose of Jesus giving spiritual leaders to the Church?
- b) What does it mean to be 'equipped' for the work of the ministry?
- c) How does the Word of God equip us to be faithful in the good works He has for us?
- d) What are some hindrances to receiving Christ's equipping through His Word?
- e) When do you struggle to receive Christ's equipping from His Word?

Point 2: GROW in His IMAGE: MATURATION (vv. 13-16)

Question: Jesus builds the church as we mature in Him. Is maturity your priority?

Maturation...

a) UNITY in Jesus (v. 13)

Question #7

- a) What does Paul mean when he exhorts the church to unity?
- b) What does full maturity look like? (v. 13)
- c) Why is doctrinal & relational unity essential if we are to grow to maturity in Christ?
- d) What hinders unity in the Church?
- e) What are some ways we are called to guard the doctrinal & relational unity in the Church?

b) STABILITY in Jesus (v. 14)

Question #8

- a) How does maturity in Christ stabilize us doctrinally?
- b) How does maturity in Christ stabilize us emotionally?
- c) How does maturity in Christ stabilize us corporately?
- d) What are some things that are hindering your growth in maturity to Christlikeness?
- e) Spend time in confession and repentance of areas of sin that are hindering your stability in Christ.

c) WITNESS for Jesus (v. 15)

Question #9

- a) What does it mean to speak the truth in love?
- b) Why is speaking the truth in love to someone one of the most loving things you can do?
- c) What are some things that hinder us from speaking the truth in love to one another?
- d) What are some results that happen when we don't speak the truth in love to one another?
- e) What situation(s) do you find it most difficult to do this in? Why?

d) WORSHIP of Jesus (v. 16)

Question #10

- a) What does it look like when every part of the Body is working properly?
- b) What are some hindrances to each person doing their part to see the body built up in love?
- c) Why is it crucial to stay connected to the Head (Jesus) individually & corporately if the body is to be built up?
- d) How does the gospel empower & equip us to serve in seeing the body built up in love?
- e) What next step(s) can you take to use your gifts in seeing the Church built up?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- a) REVERENCE before God: Jesus, you are the Head of Your Church and are_____.
- b) HUMILITY before God: Confess & repent of areas that are hindering your maturity in Christ.
- c) THANKSGIVING to God: Jesus, thank You for how you are building Your church by_____.
- d) SUPPLICATION to God: Jesus, please build Your Church through_____.

Memory Verses:

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,"-Ephesians 4:15

