

## What Are We Here For?: God's Plan for Northridge

(Ephesians 4:11-16)

### God's Gifts – People (11)

*"And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,"*

#### Men appointed, gifted, & assigned by God:

- Apostles – chosen by Jesus to help begin the church (Eph 2:20)
- Prophets – received direct revelation from God to help begin the church (Eph 2:20; 1 Cor 13:8)
- Evangelists – share the Gospel to unbelievers; help believers to share
- Pastors & Teachers

### God's Goal – Purpose (12)

*"for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,"*

- Equipping – Towards Saint Training – teaching believers to know and to do
- Serving – For Service Work – working acts of serving others – not entertainment or self-centeredness
- Building – For Body Building – building the body – God wants us to be body-focused, not self-focused – what would build or strengthen the body?

### God's Guidance – Particulars (13-16) – Not "What do I want out of 'church'?" but "What does God want out of 'church'?"

*"that we might ALL attain..."*

1. **Unity – oneness** – doing things as one – not individualistically determined or focused  
*"unto the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God"*
  - a. **Unity of faith** – believing the same thing brings us together
  - b. **Unity of knowledge** – experiencing the Son of God brings us together
2. **Totality – complete** – to the end, not half-hearted or half-way – God wants to complete the blueprint for Northridge  
*"to a perfect man,"*
  - a. God wants us to **grow up completely** as a unit
  - b. God wants **every part to be part** of this "man"
  - c. God wants us all to **be fully trained** as a unit

3. **Maturity** – positive measure – to grow up fully as Christ  
*"to the measure of the stature [or maturity] of the fullness of Christ;"*
  - a. God defines "grown up"
  - b. God wants this "man" [us as a unit] to be measured in comparison to Christ
  - c. God wants this "man" [us as a unit] to be as mature as Christ! (1 John 2:6)
4. **Stability** – negative measure – not bounced or pushed infants  
*"that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,"*
  - a. Not infants – immature and easily led astray
  - b. Not tossed by whims of circumstance (bouncing around)
  - c. Not carried by winds of deceptive teaching (falsehood, fads)

#### Process Restated

*"but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--"*

- Speaking the truth ("truthing") – by A, P, E, P&T?
  - Speaking in love (God's unconditional care)
  - Growing up in Him – Christ is our focus and our measure
  - Growing up in all areas
5. **Entirety – every part learning its part and doing its part**  
*"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share,"*
    - a. Whole body – this involves everyone
    - b. Fit together – proper place, proper connection
    - c. Knit together – glued together
    - d. By each joint's supply – your serving **is** the glue!
      - Effective working – "energy" – "in-working" (God's enablement – 1:9; 3:7; Col 1:9; Col 2:12)
      - Every part **has** its share, **learns** its share, and **does** its share of serving (Rom 12, 1 Cor 12)
  6. **Assembly – building up and increasing in size**  
*"causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*
    - a. God uses the body [us] to **grow** the body
    - b. God uses the body [us] to **build** the body

#### What are YOU here for?