

HOW to Be An Ephesians 4:12 Christian



*"11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.
12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."* Ephesians 4:12 NLT

- Are you a John 3:16 Christian ONLY, or are you ALSO an Ephesians 4:12 Christian?

What is the difference? A John 3:16 Christian has accepted and placed his faith in Jesus for eternal life. An Ephesians 4:12 is a John 3:16 Christian who is also being equipped to do God's work and build up the church. An Ephesians 4:12 Christian IS a John 3:16 Christian, BUT a John 3:16 Christian is not necessarily an Ephesians 4:12 Christian.

Ephesians 4:11-16 is the most crucial passage in the Bible for explaining God's design for the local church. It is God's job description for spiritual leaders and the membership. It gives us an understanding of God's call and purpose for our lives.

Central Lesson

The local church is a spiritual boot camp equipping God's troops to advance His Kingdom & build up one another.

I. Four Gifted **SERVANTS** to the Church (4:11)

"11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers."

- Apostles** - They were authoritative representatives of God who spread the gospel message. Apostles were the foundation of the church (see Eph. 2:20).
- Prophets** - preachers who confronted sin, called people to repentance, and revealed God's message. Prophets were also foundational to the church (see Eph. 2:20).
- Evangelists** - people who proclaim and explain the gospel of salvation to those who have not received Christ.
- Pastors - Teachers** - a teaching shepherd. The word "pastor" is literally "shepherd" in the original language, a caring over-seer. The Greek text indicates that this is one position - it describes a pastor-teacher. Teaching the Bible is his major calling.

II. Responsibilities of the **PASTOR** and **PEOPLE** (4:12)

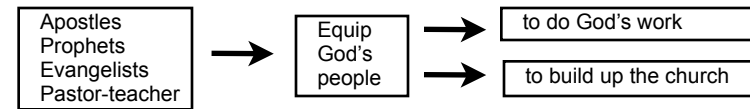
"12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his [God's] work and build up the church, the body of Christ."

- Responsibilities of the Pastor** - "equip" God's people. The word "equip" conveys the idea of "prepare or train." The local church

pastor is like a drill sergeant getting God's troops ready for service and battle.

B. **Responsibilities of the People.** The Greek text indicates that there are two objectives for the equipping effort. They are expressed by the Greek preposition *eis*, meaning "to, unto."

- "to" do his (God's) work.** God's plan is for the pastor to teach the people to visit the sick, witness, disciple new believers, counsel, lead Bible studies, pray, etc. The pastor is to equip and the people do the ministry work. The people are the "ministers."
- "to" build up the church, the body of Christ.** God's plan is for the pastor to equip the people, and as the people do the work of the ministry, the church grows, people mature spiritually, and the church family becomes spiritually healthy.



APPLICATION

- Fulfilling the Great Commission - reaching the lost with the Gospel & discipling them to spiritual maturity - is a **TEAM** effort of all Christians working together.**

"...equip God's people to do his [God's] work and build up the church, the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:12 NLT).

If a church is not reaching people for Christ, usually it is because the principle of Ephesians 4:12 does not drive the local church. Examples of Biblical teamwork (Eph. 4:16; Exodus 17:11-13; 18:17-21; Luke 6:13; 1 Cor. 3:6; Eccl. 4:9-10).

- God has given every Christian at least one spiritual **GIFT** in order to participate and serve in the body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10).

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other" (1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT).

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another" (1 Peter 4:10 NLT).

Every Christian should seek to discover their spiritual gift(s) and serve God and others according to their giftedness. Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is/are?

- Every Christian can participate in reaching out to the lost in at least **TWO** minimum ways - (1) pray, & (2) invite.**

Back to Church Sunday - Sept. 17th. Let us work together to reach people.

Central Lesson

The local church is a spiritual boot camp equipping God's troops to advance His Kingdom & build up one another.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.