

Mission and Vision Series – To Equip Believers
AM Service Ephesians 4:7-16 Dec. 18, 2016

Introduction

“mission” - the nonnegotiable imperatives related to the Church

“vision” - the contribution of First Baptist Church to the overarching mission of the Church as a whole

Our mission is to equip believers to know and serve Jesus.

The Commission

The Context of Ephesians 4:7-16 – Christians Belong Together

1. Exhortation to Unity
2. Elements of Unity
3. Two thoughts
 - a. Paul encourages Christians to live for one another.
 - b. Christians belong together.

The Distribution of the Gifts

1. There is diversity in unity.
2. Christ ascended and gave.
 - a. Christ ascended.
 - b. Christ gave.
 - * Apostles and Prophets
 - * Evangelists
 - * Pastors and Teachers

The Intention of the Gifts (4:12–16)

1. The purpose of the gifted men is to prepare God’s people for works of service.

“equipping”
“come”
2. Gifted people are to minister until **all** the church attains three goals.

3. What are the results of gifted people equipping saints to serve Jesus and others?

- a. We will not be like immature infants.
- b. We will be more like Christ.
 1. Properly equipped people will speak the truth in love.
 2. Christ, then, is the Source of a believer’s growth...
 3. From the Head, the body derives its whole capacity for growth and activity.
 4. Each member of the body is joined by being carefully fitted together...
 5. The body relies on each member doing his or her part.
 6. This causes the body of Christ to grow and build itself up in love.

“Each believer is to function in Christ’s body by God’s enabling grace in accord with the measure of the gift Christ bestowed on him (v. 7). When each believer accomplishes that measure, then the church grows properly (v. 16), coming ultimately to the measure of Christlikeness (v. 13). Stunted growth comes when one does not allow his or others’ gifts to function.” Bible Kn. Comm.

What does this mean for us?

1. The preservation of unity is the responsibility of God’s gifted people in the church.
2. In this unity of structure is variety of function.
3. Paul emphasized body growth, not self-growth.

Our Vision – To be a thriving, multi-generational church that reaches our community for Christ

Our Mission is to –
Glorify God
Engage people with the Gospel
Equip believers to know and serve Jesus

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery