

Growth Group Questions
October 25, 2026
"Equipping Others"

CONTEXT
Ephesians 4 begins a new section of the letter to the church in Ephesus. The first section responds to the first three chapters in a more practical way. Verses 1-7 begin by saying that it is important for us to find our calling as we unite in Christ.

The problem is that when people unite, sometimes they can try to be the same. God's desire is to unite us in Christ but then to give us that we need to serve together. The Apostle Paul lists 5 different roles that the church uses to spread the word of Jesus Christ. They are:

> Apostles apostolos "Sent ones, envoys, authorized ambassadors."
> Prophets prophētēs "Spokespersons, proclaimers, divine messengers."
> Evangelists euangelistēs "Proclaimers of good news, evangelists."
> Shepherds poimēn "Shepherds, protectors, spiritual overseers."
> Teachers didaskalos "Instructors, expositors, teachers."

The ones who have been given these gifts are to use them to build the church. While there are many gifts that God gives to those around us, we know that these roles played a huge part in furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are additional gifts given to the early followers of the way, but these 5 played a critical role in the initial proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE
Ephesians 4:1-16
[1]Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. [2] Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. [3] Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. [4] For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. [5] There is one

Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. [7] However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. [8] That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people."

[9] Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. [10] And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

[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. [13] This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

[14] Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. [15] Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. [16] He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

John 14:12-14

12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. **13** You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. **14** Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

QUESTIONS

1. In Ephesians 4:7, we are told that God has given each of us a special gift. What does the knowledge that God gives special gifts to each of us tell us about the character of God?

2. In Ephesians 4:11-12, the Apostle Paul says that the role of church leaders is to "equip God's people to do His work and to build up the church." How does this passage help you to understand the role of church leaders as well as your own role in "doing God's work"?

3. What Bible verses help you to better know and understand the different types of spiritual gifts that God gives to us?

4. How does the Apostle Paul's picture of the church as a "body" help you to understand how our different gifts work together to accomplish God's work?

5. What type of things can get in the way of using the spiritual gifts God has given to us?

6. The Apostle Paul said that spiritual immaturity leaves us vulnerable to being "tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching." What does that mean and how do we guard against this?

7. What one thing from this week's sermon do you want to remember and apply in your life this week?

PASTOR CHAD'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What would your friends or family say is your greatest gift to the Kingdom of God?

2. Prayer Practice – Availabilty. Pray to God to reveal to you your gifts and encourage others to do the same.