

Building Up The Body Ephesians 4:11-14

I. Intro

- A. Baptism at Lake Texoma: June 11
- B. The Building up of the Body of Christ has many implications:
 - 1. A strong body has the ability to weather the storms that rage.
 - 2. A built up body is one that is fully equipped.
- C. So we see today, after a statement of unity and the gift of Grace, the challenge of fulfillment in the church, for the purpose of God: the gospel, and the equipping of the church.

II. Text

- A. Verse 11: Leadership Callings:
 - 1. Apostles:
 - a) apostolos: apostle, messenger, he that is sent
 - b) Apostles in the scripture were limited to those that had witnessed the resurrected body of Christ.
 - 2. Prophets:
 - a) prophetes: pro: above phemi: say or affirm:
 - b) A prophet received the word from God and delivered it without compromise.
 - 3. Evangelists:
 - a) euangelistēs: proclaimer, preacher: bringer of tidings: also messenger
 - b) The gifted evangelist is an effective proclaimer of the gospel.
 - 4. Shepherds:
 - a) poimēn: Shepherd of Pastor: a herdsman
 - b) Pastoral authority is to shepherd under the authority of the GOOD SHEPHERD
 - 5. Teachers:
 - a) didaskalos: teacher, master, doctor: cause to learn
 - b) A teacher should be prepared and cause students to learn
- B. Verse 12: Purpose of the gifts:
 - 1. Equip the saints for the work of ministry
 - 2. Building up of the Body of Christ, the Church
- C. Verse 13
 - 1. Until we attain unity of faith to maturity
 - 2. The calling doesn't stop, doesn't quit
- D. Verse 14
 - 1. No Longer CHILDREN
 - 2. No Longer UNSTABLE
 - 3. No Longer swayed by FALSE TEACHERS

III. Point

- A. Gifted Servant Leaders:
 - 1. People are gifted by God to serve in different ways, all are called to serve, some are called to lead:
 - a) James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.
 - b) 1Corinthians 12:12-20 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole

body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

2. Servants who are called to lead are called to:
 - a) Equip the saints: give believers the information, instruction, and permission to fulfill the calling God has placed on their lives.
 - b) To build up the body of Christ...to the measure of the stature of Christ:
 - (1) This is huge in concept, and larger in impact
 - (2) Leaders are called, and equipped to give people what they need to prosper in ministry, so that the body of Christ will fulfill God's plan.
 3. Equip the saints: My job
 - a) Give you what you need to accomplish the ministry to which God has created you.
 - b) To teach, and be an example in service (also teaching)
- B. The Stature of the Fullness of Christ
1. This is the calling to be a perfectly equipped church
 2. We have a clear calling, we have empowered people, we have the GRACE of Christ...
 3. So what are we lacking?
 - a) We are lacking nothing in the spiritual sense
 - b) We are lacking much in the physical sense:
 - (1) We are still battling the flesh
 - (2) And that hinders our growth
 4. Jesus told His disciples: The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.
 - a) This truth is also seen in the church
 - b) When the church does not accomplish the plan of God, it is not a problem with God!
 5. Remedy:
 - a) Die daily to self, and live for Christ
 - b) Inspire others to do the same
 - c) Live in community with other believers.
- C. Sound Doctrine leads to sound practice
1. Do not let yourself be tossed about by every wave of doctrine, or the latest "christian" fad
 2. The word of God is our guide, and we shall be discerning listeners
 3. It is a very popular thing today, just as always, to try to come up with some new concept to wow the crowds that gather:
 - a) This leads to a "self help" "ted talk" style of teaching
 - b) The word of God has always been enough, yet many try to make the word a jumping off point for a really cool teaching session...
 - c) THE WORD IS THE TEACHING SESSION!
 - d) DON'T FALL FOR THE SCHEME OF THE ENEMY:
 - (1) If you need more than the word to keep you entertained...the word is not the problem
 - (2) If the word doesn't match up to your political anger and you want more thoughts that agree with yours...the word is not the problem.
 - (3) If you do not like clearly stated truth and immeasurable grace...the word is not the problem
 4. Follow sound doctrine, truth the LORD through it all, and it will produce in you sound practice.
 5. Sound practice is a result of sound doctrine,
- IV. Close

[Eph 4:11-14 ESV] 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.