

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 66

Paul's Charge to the Ephesian Elders – Part 3

The Focus, Charge, Duties, and Responsibilities

Acts 20:28-32

1 Peter 5:1-5

Ephesians 4:11-16



Acts 20:28-32:

Be on GUARD for yourselves and for all the FLOCK, among which the Holy Spirit has made you OVERSEERS, to SHEPHERD the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be on the ALERT, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to ADMONISH each one with TEARS. ³² And now I COMMEND YOU to God AND to the WORD of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1. First Priorities (Acts 20:28-32):

**a. Guard the Flock / Protect them from the “wolves”
(false teachings / false teachers, etc.)**

**b. Feed the Flock / Shepherd the Flock – oversight, guidance, teaching with SOUND DOCTRINE (the food is the Word of God)
This includes Warning, Admonishment, Rebuke and Corrections – based upon the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-4:4)**

1 Peter 5:1-5 – Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your FELLOW ELDER and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight NOT under compulsion, but voluntarily, ACCORDING to the WILL of God; and NOT for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ NOR yet as LORDING it over those ALLOTTED to your CHARGE, but proving to be EXAMPLES to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

2. The Motivation and Example – (1 Peter 5:1-5)

Peter, although he is an Apostle (capital “A” Apostle) – he was also a Fellow Elder with those he was corresponding with – over a local church family.

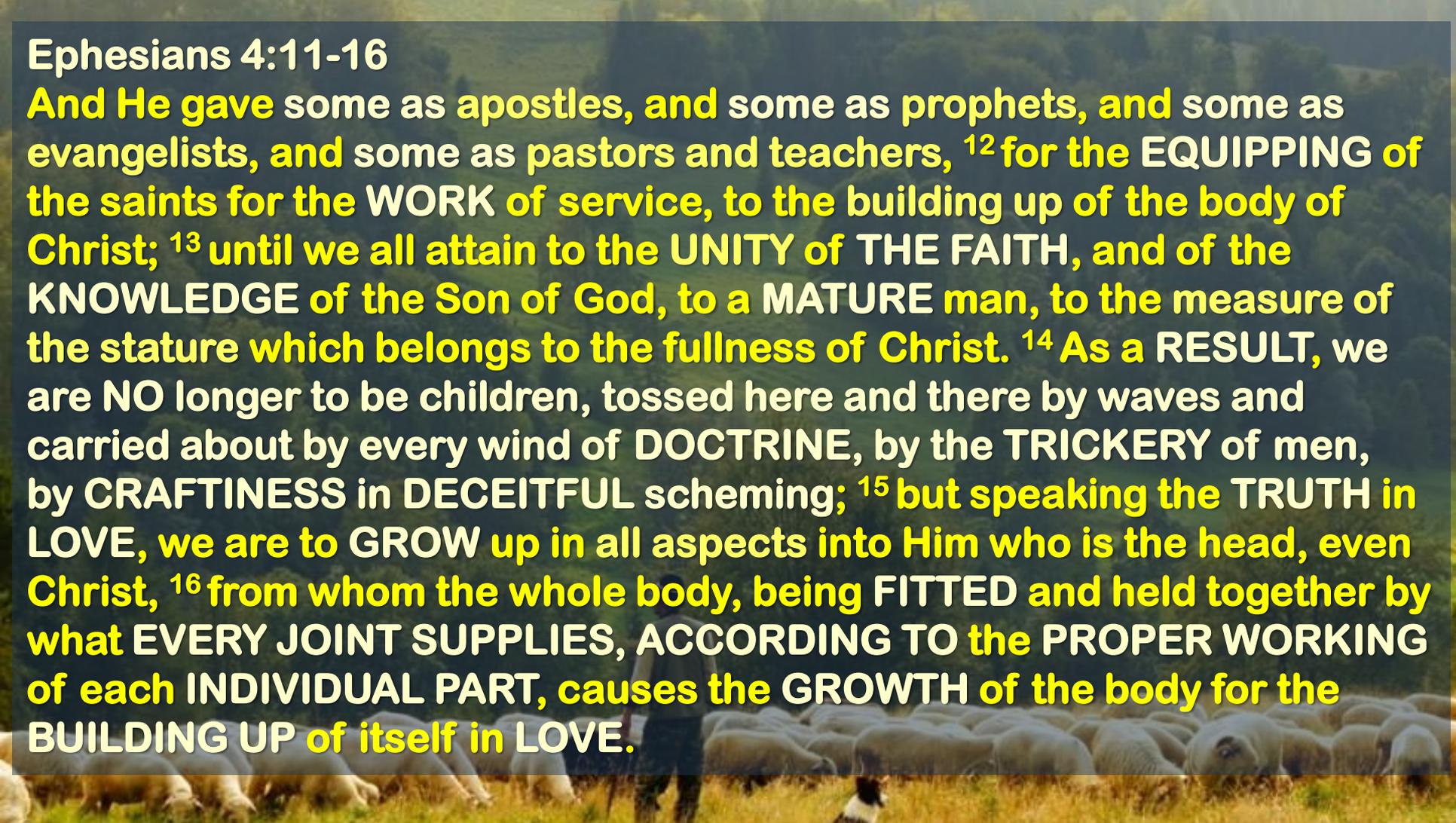
a. Motivation – Voluntary according to the Will of God with eagerness – not under obligation – Pure Motivations

b. Example to the Flock – in how he shepherds the flock



Ephesians 4:11-16

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the EQUIPPING of the saints for the WORK of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the UNITY of THE FAITH, and of the KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God, to a MATURE man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a RESULT, we are NO longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of DOCTRINE, by the TRICKERY of men, by CRAFTINESS in DECEITFUL scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the TRUTH in LOVE, we are to GROW up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being FITTED and held together by what EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES, ACCORDING TO the PROPER WORKING of each INDIVIDUAL PART, causes the GROWTH of the body for the BUILDING UP of itself in LOVE.



3. The Elder's Focus: Equipping the Saints ... (Ephesians 4:11-16)

a. Equipped for the work of ministry/service – knitted together, repaired, built-up, healed to proper working fitness to do that which you were created to do.

Strong's Greek Word #2677: καταρτισμός - katartismós (a masculine noun) – properly, exact adjustment which describes how (enables) the individual parts to work together in correct order

b. The Goal is Maturity in Christ, in the Word of God, in using one's Gifts to cause the growth (numeric growth) of the local church family, and building it up in Love (qualitative growth) – All Hands on Deck (vv: 13,15,16)

c. Protection → Ephesians 4:14 (ref.: Acts 20:28-32) Every Wind of Doctrine

d. This Equipping is based upon the Word of God being taught properly and consistently. No Ad-Mixture included.
(ref. 1 Timothy 5:17-18)



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1 Timothy 5:17-18

The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, ESPECIALLY those who work hard at PREACHING and TEACHING. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Preaching and Teaching what? → The Word of God, ALONE ...

2 Timothy 4:1-2 → I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²PREACH THE WORD; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.



4. Why is this so important?

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for TEACHING, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, for TRAINING in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be ADEQUATE, EQUIPPED for every GOOD WORK. (i.e.: THOROUGHLY Equipped → SCRIPTURE IS ENOUGH)

4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:
² PREACH THE WORD; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will NOT endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.



4. Why is this so important? – 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4

Using the **WORD of God, ONLY** – the Elder must **Teach** Sound Doctrine, always, with no admixture of man-made traditions, etc.

Because there will be a time in which folks will reject Sound Doctrine and want man-made traditions, stories, and myths.

So, the Word of God must be preached, proclaimed, taught to so that that local church family is thoroughly equipped for every good work. This may include: Reproving, Rebuking, Exhortation, Encouragement, Admonishment, Correction, and more Teaching. → **SOLA SCRIPTURA** → **SCRIPTURE ONLY**

Do we have a **DIMINISHED** view of Scripture?

By our Actions, based upon our Decisions, we show our view of Scripture.

Do we only obey it, when it is convenient for us, and fits into our schedule or agenda? What does Jesus have to say about this? → **Matthew 6:33**

