

Equipping & Encouraging

Eph 4:11-16

1. Intro

1. Are you sufficient in yourself?
 1. Do you have at your disposal, with science and technology, to be independent and self-sufficient?
 2. Our world says so, but scripture says otherwise. (Jer. 10:23).
2. So we need some help in how we live. We need to be equipped and also encouraged.
 1. Equipping is to help others understand what they need **to be** and what they need **to do** in relationship to service to the Lord.
 2. Encouragement is giving support to another
3. Each one of us can be used to equip and encourage.

2. Equipping

1. Being (Character)
 1. To develop our character is to make us to be people of honour and to be sanctified.
 1. Honour
 1. Living in such a way that it pleases God. (glorify God)
 2. Sanctified
 1. To be set apart
 2. To come to a full knowledge of God
 1. To know Him not just about Him.
 2. To understand His purpose and plan.
2. Doing
 1. Gifts or abilities are to be discovered, developed, and used through faith, hard work, and prayer
 2. Although the Spirit is the source of spiritual gifts, the believer may have a part in the development of his gifts.
 3. Whatever God has called you to do, He will provide for with the necessary resources to do that job or ministry
 1. His timing and His way may change over the years
3. Reasons for not being equipped
 1. The belief God only calls preachers, evangelists, missionaries, etc.
 2. Paralyzed by the fear of failure or of making mistakes.
 1. God has built into each of us the basics for the ministry He wants us to do (age, background, perhaps even some training, environment and interests all in conjunction with our own spiritual gifts)
 3. Apathy, lack of devotion to the Lord and the body of Christ.
 4. Personal agendas in ministry--position, power, praise, applause.

3. Encouragement

1. Proverbs 25:11
2. Encouragement fuels the inner person
 1. Light fires inside them, not under them.
3. Holding up a mirror so that another can see Christ coming through
 1. Putting into words what may be obvious
4. Being
 1. "I like this (character trait) about you"
5. Doing
 1. "You do a great job"
6. To see something by faith that is not readily visible to the individual or others.
 1. What is God doing in their life
 2. Seeing potential

4. The Result

1. No longer immature. (14a)
 1. We will be aware of what we believe (14b)
 2. Will not be deceived (14c)
2. Grow to be like Christ (15)
3. The Body of Christ will be built up (16)

5. Conclusion

1. I am being equipped; I am also equipping
2. I am being encouraged; I am also encouraging