



Connected-My Life in the Church

Lesson 3: Connected In Growth

Lesson Text: Ephesians 4:11-16 Background Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-22

Question: What do you like best about being a fan if anything?

- **Apostle:** *a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders,, specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ, in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers, of Barnabas, of Timothy and Silvanus*
- **Prophet:** *In Greek writings, an interpreter of oracles or of other hidden things, one who is moved by the Spirit of God and hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and Kingdom of God and to human salvation.*

Ephesians 4:11-12

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, (1 Cor. 12:12-3)
12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Ephesians 4:13

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-16

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Application Questions:

- Have you ever felt fully equipped to carry out an important task?
- What obstacles keep us from equipping others or being equipped ourselves?
- What does it look like to measure spiritual maturity based on the fullness of Christ?
- What advice would you give someone seeking to balance speaking truth and showing love?



Live It Out

We have a responsibility to equip others for ministry or engage in ministry ourselves. Here are some practical ways to fulfill that responsibility and join the movement toward spiritual growth:

- **Be a participator, not a spectator.** Identify a specific and practical way to serve others in your church and community.
- **Get equipped.** Find a healthy well balanced church, pray, study Gods word, learn to hear the Spirit of God.
- **Balance your speech.** When issues or conflicts arise during the week, make a conscious effort to speak the truth in a way that also demonstrates love.