

## **“UNDERSTANDING THE FIVE FUNCTIONAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH”**

**(Eph. 2:19-22; 4:11-16; 5:27)**

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**INTRO:** Ephesians 4 gives us another glimpse of what a mature people of God look like, and how to get there.

### **I. WHAT A MATURE PEOPLE OF GOD LOOK LIKE (Eph. 4:12-16)**

1. The saints are equipped for the work of ministry (v. 12a).
2. The body of Christ is built up and therefore strong (v. 12b).
3. The body of Christ walking in the unity of the faith (v. 13a).
4. The body walking in the knowledge of Jesus (v. 13b).
5. This brings us to maturity, manifesting Christ (v. 13c).
  - As we mature, we become stable and aren't easily deceived by false doctrine and by deceitful people (v. 14).
6. The body of Christ speaks the truth in love (v. 15a).
  - A. Truth without love - judgmental and legalistic.
  - B. Love without truth – [moral] compromise.
7. The body of Christ grows up into Christ the head of His Church (v. 15b; John 15:7, 7).
8. Every member fulfilling their God-given function in the body, while staying connected and related (v. 16a).
  - Result: the body grows & builds itself up in love (v. 16b).
9. Jesus is coming for a church that reflects His glory and lives holy (consecrated & obedient to God (Eph. 5:27)!

### **II. HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS GROWTH (Eph. 4:11)?**

- A. Through the ministry of the five functional gifts (v. 11).
- B. God never took any of these gifts away from the church!
- C. All five are needed to be fully equipped and fully mature!
- D. In this series we will look at what these gifts are, how they properly function, & how that relates to each of us.

### **III. THE CHURCH IS TO BE BUILT ON AN APOSTOLIC & PROPHETIC FOUNDATION (Eph. 2:19-22).**

- A. Believers are members (living stones – 1Pet. 2:5) in the household of God (Eph. 2:19).
- B. We have to be “*fitted together*” before we can “*grow together*” (Eph. 2:21-22)!
- C. The end game is a holy priesthood as a dwelling place of God in the Spirit!