

“Maturing the Saints”

Ephesians 4:11-16

Intro:

- The word “*prepare*” or “*equip*” means = *to be mature, to be complete, to be grown up, to be fully equipped and ready to go. It also refers to the process of perfecting.*

I. The Progress to Perfection:

(1) *He gave gifted people, to the Church to equip the saints –*

- **apostles** focus on extending the influence of the Gospel geographically.
- **prophets** focus on extending the influence of the Gospel through exhortations to personal holiness in light of revealed truth.
- **evangelists** focus on extending the influence of the Gospel through faith to as many people as possible wherever they are.
- **pastors** focus on extending the influence of the Gospel to restore individual lives with demonstrations of compassion through loving nurture and care.
- **teachers** extend the influence of the Gospel by explaining how God’s revealed truth relates to individual lives. They are about discipleship, instruction, systematization but, most of all, they explain.

Here's the key: The function of all five of those people is to equip God's people, to mature the saints, to edify, to make capable the people of God. *He gave gifted people, to the Church, to equip the saints.*

(2) *The saints are going to do the work of the ministry –*

(3) *The Body is built –*

II. *The Result of the Maturing of God's People:*

(1) *Unity in the Body –*

(2) *The knowledge of the Son of God –*

(3) *Attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ –*

(4) *No more doctrinal ignorance –*

(5) *We speak the truth in love –*

Application: