

**“*KOINONIA* AND SPIRITUAL
GIFTS:
PART I”**

Ephesians 4:1-16

February 28, 2010

Two Key Questions:

- Having come to understand something of what God's up to in building *koinonia* in the church, how does he actually do it?
- How can we participate in what he's doing?

Thoughts on Ephesians 4:1-11

- Paul begins by encouraging us toward unity.
- He then he quickly adds that we have differing gifts in differing measures and says that the “first” of the gifts are the leaders of the church.
- We must ask, then, how does the fact that all believers have different levels of gifting, and that some of us are raised up in authority over the rest of us, cause us to desire or fight for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

Ephesians 4:11-16

“¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

How Does God Build *Koinonia*?

- He calls leaders, grants authority, and commands submission.
- He calls those leaders to use their authority to equip the saints for the work of ministry.
- He calls each person to utilize his/her gifts for the glory of God and the good of the church.
- As each part plays its part, the body is built to the measure of the stature of Christ.

What does it mean to “equip”?

- The Greek word means “to make something completely adequate” or “to thoroughly prepare someone or something in order to meet demands.”
- Thus, it’s translated in a variety of ways including “mend, make ready, create, arrange, prepare, perfect, and equip.”

1 Corinthians 1:4-10

“⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:4-10

*⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship [the koinonia] of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **united** in the same mind and the same judgment.”*

Galatians 6:1

*“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should **restore** him in a spirit of gentleness.”*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

*“⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and **supply** what is lacking in your faith?”*

Hebrews 13:20-21

“²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Conclusion:

To equip the saints for the work of the ministry is to build up their base of knowledge, breed in them a passionate love for God and others, and train them in practical skills that they might do the will of God for the glory of his name and the good of the church.

Equipping = Truth, Love & Skills