

Multiply | Equip

Ephesians 4:1-16

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11 And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry...

—Ephesians 4:11-12a

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

—Ephesians 4:1

I. Hallmarks of a Church That Will Multiply its Gospel Influence

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love

—Ephesians 4:2

a) A people who love one another deeply (Eph. 4:2)

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

—Ephesians 4:3

b) A people who pursue and protect unity (Eph. 4:3)

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

—Ephesians 4:7

c) A people who know and use their giftings (Eph. 4: 7)

II. The Necessity of Equipping in the Local Church

a) For the mission to be accomplished (Eph. 4: 11-12a)

*And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the
work of ministry...*

—Ephesians 4:11-12a

b) For the church to be strengthened (Eph. 4: 12b)

...for building up the body of Christ

—Ephesians 4:12b

c) For believers to grow in maturity (Eph. 4:13)

*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*

—Ephesians 4:13

d) For protection from distraction and deception (Eph. 4:14)

*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 4:14

III. The Outcome of Equipping in the Local Church

*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.*

—Ephesians 4:15-16

God is glorified and Gospel influence is multiplied (Eph. 4:15-16)

IV. Personal Responsibility for Equipping in the Local Church

*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in
Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the
presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who
will be able to teach others also.*

—2 Timothy 2:1-2

In what ways do I need to be a “Timothy” and in what ways can I be a “Paul”?

(2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Study Questions:

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-16. Which aspects of the picture Paul paints in these verses encourage you most when you think about Southbrook generally and your own discipleship specifically? What do you find challenging or convicting and why? What excites you about being part of an equipping church?
2. Have you typically taken a more active or passive approach to equipping? Why do you think that is? What does the level of emphasis you place on equipping (yourself and others) say about how important you believe it to be? What changes might you need to make in the light of Paul’s words in this passage?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31. What are your spiritual gifts (whether or not they are specifically mentioned in this passage) and how are you currently using them “for the common good”? In what ways could you more effectively use them? What would be the impact of us truly living out Ephesians 4:15-16?

Prayer Points

- Reflect on the hallmarks of a church that will multiply its Gospel influence. Pray that they will become increasingly evident at Southbrook, and for God to reveal how you personally can grow in these things.
- Thank God for specific people who have played a role in equipping you as a disciple. Ask Him how you can play an equipping role in the lives of others and commit to acting on what He shows you.
- Pray for our outgoing residents – that God would guide them and use them powerfully as they continue to live out His call upon their lives. Pray for our incoming residents – that God would lead us to the right people and help us be effective in equipping them.