

# BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP FOCUSES DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP (PART 2)

## Ephesians 4.11b: The work of Christ—Provision for the mission

**Theme:** To labor in unity, we need to follow God-given, godly leadership that guides us in the Mission.

**God uses men to lead His work—to lead us in the mission.**

- (v1) We are still talking about our new “vocation” in Christ.
  - ✓ Really, all that follows in Ephesians stems from this “new job.”
  - ✓ All practical application in the Christian life is basically a work of the ministry designed for the progress of the Gospel, either by word (witnessing, preaching, teaching) or example (how we live in order to adorn the Gospel... in marriage, family, work, etc.).
- (2Tim 2.2) One thing we definitely need to be aware of in this new “vocation” (the mission—how to live for Christ) is that God uses men to guide to us and focus us—to lead us.
  - ✓ (Php 4.9) God has given certain individuals in the Body of Christ that will teach us what it means to be a Christian, and then they will lead us in that lifestyle by their example (what we *see*, we *do*).
  - ✓ (Eph 4.8, 11) In Ephesians 4, Paul mentions four specific leaders that God has given to *focus* our “diversity in unity” so that together we can *get the job done* (v12; the job is our “vocation,” the mission—the work of the ministry that results in the growth of the Body of Christ).
- God uses men to lead His work, and because of that we need to understand what kind of leaders God has given (and uses) so that we can *follow them*.

**(Eph 4.11a) In our last message we looked at the first two of the four leaders (v8, gifts!) mentioned here.**

1. **Apostles:** We call these leaders “missionaries” today.
  - The word *apostle* comes from a Greek word meaning “sent one.” It refers to a disciple who has been sent by Christ with the mission of reaching the unreached with the Gospel.
  - To avoid confusion with the Twelve and Paul, we call these leaders *missionaries* today (which comes from the Latin *missio* but means same thing as the Greek *apostelos*).
  - We made the point in the message that we need missionaries! Therefore, we need to be *praying* for them, *preparing* them (and we talked about the need for a Bible Institute), and *participating* with them (following their lead) when God sends them out.
2. **Prophets:** We call these leaders “preachers” today.
  - Preachers are gift from Christ because they are sent to “wake us up!” and call us to holy living.
  - Again, we made the point last message: Would to God He would give us more preachers who love Him, love His Word, and who are zealous and passionate for the same!
  - We need men who are so full of the Lord and Scripture that they cannot help but preach and stir us up for the Lord and His work!
  - So, we need to *pray* for more prophets/preachers, *prepare* them (Bible Institute: through an abundance of Scripture), and *participate* with them (follow them; provide them our loyalty).

**We are going to finish Ephesian 4.11 today by looking at two more leaders in our new vocation...**

## **I. Christ gave some “evangelists” as provision for the mission.**

### **A. An evangelist is a leader in the church who teaches and trains the saints in evangelism.**

1. The evangelist (v11), in context, is a gift that Christ has given the church (v8) for the perfecting of the saints (v12)—the leaders (v11; all of them!) are given to teach and train the saints.
2. The evangelist will obviously evangelize and he will be zealous for evangelism. But, don't make the mistake of thinking that that's all he does. The evangelist is given *primarily* to teach and train the saints in the work of evangelizing the lost.
3. The passion and zeal of an evangelist for evangelism (and his constant evangelizing) serves as an example and model for the rest of us to follow and imitate (they teach, train... and motivate us!).

### **B. (2Cor 5.18-19) Remember: All of the saints are called evangelize the lost.**

1. If you are saved and reconciled to God in Christ, then God has in turn committed to you the Gospel (the Word of Reconciliation) to take to the lost.
2. Most of us, though, don't do that very well and, frankly, we avoid it because we're not comfortable doing it. And don't believe the lie that, “*Well I don't have the gift of evangelism so I don't evangelize.*” Sorry: There is no gift of evangelism (the evangelist is the gift!). It's about *obedience*.

### **C. God has given us evangelists as gifts to lead us in the work of evangelism.**

1. The evangelist will be someone who evangelizes, yes. But, more than that he will be a leader that God uses to teach and train the rest of us (to lead us!) in the work of evangelism.
2. I believe that today God has gifted the Body of Christ as a whole with evangelists in men like Mark Cahill and Ray Comfort. But, I also believe that God has blessed us at HBC with several evangelists and I hope He gives us more!

### **D. (2Tim 4.5) The work of an evangelist (training the saints to evangelize!) is of utmost importance.**

1. Even when a local church does not have an evangelist to teach and train the saints in evangelism, God expects the pastor to do the work of an evangelist (which is training the saints to evangelize).
2. So, *not* having an evangelist is *no excuse* for *not* training the saints in evangelism and mobilizing them in intentional efforts to communicate the Gospel to the lost.
3. It's too important! Evangelism and evangelism training is too important to just push it aside!

### **E. But, Christ has not stopped giving evangelists to the Body of Christ.**

1. I just think most churches and pastors *don't like* evangelists and don't want them around (must less have them teaching and training the saints in biblical evangelism).
2. And I refuse to buy into this wicked mentality that biblical evangelism “doesn't work anymore.”
  - a) Biblical evangelism includes “conversational” evangelism (witnessing as you have or make opportunities in casual conversations like Christ at the well with the Samaritan woman). But it goes way beyond this...
  - b) Biblical evangelism intentional and strategic evangelism of the lost. It is “street” evangelism, open-air evangelism, house-to-house evangelism.
  - c) And biblical evangelism means we preach the Gospel as given to us in the Bible, the way the Bible says we are to present it: “*Law to the proud, grace to the humble*” (man's sin, God's righteousness, and coming judgment *must precede* the good news of grace and forgiveness).
3. And all that means this: We need leaders to teach us, train us, and focus our efforts.

## **F. So, what should we do? Pray, prepare, participate...**

1. We ought to pray that God would raise up evangelists—strong, godly leaders to teach us, train us, and lead us in the work of intentionally reaching the lost with the Gospel.
2. We need to prepare the next generation of evangelists.
  - a) If we will focus on teaching and training the saints in evangelism, God will raise up those who will be the leaders to teach and train the next generation.
  - b) And so, again: If God would allow us to get a school going (Bible Institute, whatever you want to call it), we have to build into that structure some very specific teaching and training on biblical evangelism.
    - (1) Personally, I think requirements in biblical evangelism should be “prerequisites” to further study (i.e, if you don't want to evangelism, you should not be allowed to continue).
    - (2) I think we have the tools. We just need the time to put it all together.
    - (3) In the meantime, there is a very good biblical evangelism training course already out there: Ray Comfort's *School of Biblical Evangelism*. You should go through it, complete it.
3. We need to participate: Get behind the evangelists God has raised up (globally and locally) in order to support them and follow them! Imitate them in what they do so you can learn to do it, too!
4. Christ has given evangelists as a gift to lead us in the work of evangelism.
  - a) I think we have several evangelists in our church here. I left my church in Costa Rica with at least two. But I want more! I want just as many as God would see fit to give us!
  - b) But, even if they are not available, God still expects the work of an evangelist to be done: God expects the pastor to teach, train, and lead his congregation in biblical evangelism.
  - c) And that brings us to our fourth and final leader in Ephesians 4...

## **II. Christ gave some “pastor-teachers” as provision for the mission.**

### **A. This one man (one leader) with two offices/responsibilities.**

1. The pastor of a local church (especially the senior pastor) should also be a teacher.
2. If you look at the grammatical structure of this verse, it's obvious Paul is talking about one man, the pastor-teacher.
  - a) Look at the word “some” and the semicolon, and you'll see it's one man with two “jobs.”
  - b) Christ gave some apostles (one type of leader; SEMICOLON); and some prophets (one type of leader; SEMICOLON); and some evangelists (one type of leader; SEMICOLON); and pastors and teachers (one type of leader).
3. The pastor (especially the senior pastor) of a local church should be a pastor and a teacher.
  - a) If not (if he is not gifted as a teacher), then he ought to reconsider his position in the ministry.
  - b) Either that, or he ought to surround himself with others who are gifted in teaching the Bible.
  - c) Why is that...?

### **B. (Rom 8.29) God's plan is to conform each and every saint to the image of Jesus Christ.**

1. (Gal 4.19) In other words, God wants to form Christ in us—to make our character like Christ's.
2. (1Jn 2.6) And God's plan is to mold our character to that of Christ's so that our conduct will follow.
3. (Eph 4.13) That means God is working in all of us to make us like the “perfect man,” Jesus Christ.
4. (Eph 4.12) In other words, God is perfecting the saints.

**C. (2Tim 3.15-17) God's principal tool that He uses to perfect us—to conform us to the image of His Son in both character and conduct—is Scripture, both taught (doctrine) & applied (reproof, etc.).**

1. (2Tim 4.1-5) The pastor is to be the one who teaches the Scripture (doctrine) and preaches to exhort the saints to do what the Scripture says.
2. (Col 1.28) Without teaching “all wisdom” (the whole counsel of God; the Scripture), the saints will not be perfected. Teaching sound doctrine (Scripture) is essential to the mission!

**D. (2Cor 3.16) This is not to minimize the role of the Holy Spirit in the transformation process.**

1. Rather, this helps us to recognize just how the Spirit of God transforms us to be like Christ.
2. (John 17.17) We are sanctified (made holy, made like Christ) through the truth, the Word of God.
3. (John 16.13) God gave the Spirit to guide us into all truth—to guide us in the Word of God.
  - a) (John 14.26) The Spirit was given to teach us...
  - b) (1Cor 2.11-13) The Spirit teaches us the words God gave us—He teaches us Scripture.
4. We need both: The Spirit and the the Scripture.
5. And, by God's design, we also need the pastor-teacher, the leader in the local church that Christ has given to teach doctrine and exhort the saints to apply the same.

**E. A pastor-teacher will be a man given continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word.**

1. (Acts 20.17, 28-32) When God separates a man to be a pastor (elder, overseer) of a local “flock,” God gives that man two principal responsibilities:
  - a) First, he is to feed the church that God placed in His care. God expects the pastor to give the saints in his church the spiritual nourishment they need to grow and stay spiritually healthy.
  - b) Second, he is to fend off the the wolves—the false teachers who would pervert and twist the Word to gain a following (often called “church growth strategies” today).
  - c) (v32) The principal tool given to the pastor to do his God-given job is the Scripture, the Word.
    - (1) Therefore the pastor should be a a man given to the study of the Word for his own edification (to be built up himself).
    - (2) And he should also be a teacher and preacher of that Word he diligently studies so that he can in turn lean his church to faithfulness in the Mission (which is our stewardship and therefore the basis of our inheritance).
2. (1Tim 4.6) A good minister, therefore, is a good pastor-teacher.
  - a) (1Tim 4.1-6) As we go further and further into the “latter times” of the last days of the Church Age, we can expect one thing to increase more and more: Apostasy.
    - (1) (v1-5) Men (church leaders) will rise up and attempt to draw away disciples from the truth of God's word in order to build a large following (i.e., “church growth movement,” etc).
    - (2) (v6) The need, then, is for a pastor-teacher who is nourished himself in the Word (through personal study and application) so that he can in turn teach others (his church).
  - b) (1Tim 4.7-10) A pastor-teacher, therefore, ought to be a man with self-discipline and diligence in his personal study and application of the Scripture.
  - c) (1Tim 4.11) Also, we need to understand this: A pastor-teacher is called by God to not only teach the saints, but he is expected to “command” them also.
    - He tells them what God says they are to do; He “commands” them by Scripture.

- d) (1Tim 4.12-16) That means the job of a pastor-teacher (his task, his responsibility, his stewardship he received from the Lord) centers around the Bible.
  - (1) He ought to be a person who is given to reading and studying the Bible.
  - (2) He also ought to be a decent example of a Christian who strives to live according to the Bible he is studying, teaching, and preaching.
  - (3) In that way (through study and application) he can *lead* his church by word and example.
- 3. The Bible indicates that a pastor-teacher is going to be a man who is given to the Word of God and prayer, not so much to counseling, visitation, and program administration.

**F. Here's the problem: Most people today expect the pastor to be a counselor and administrator.**

- 1. The modern perception of and expectation for a pastor is not biblical.
  - a) Most people want a pastor who will speak nice things to them over coffee so that they can continue living their self-centered, comfortable lives without feeling bad about it.
  - b) Most people want a pastor who will provide the right set of church programs for them and where they are at in their “journey” through life (small groups, singles group, children's ministry, youth group, sports, music “ministry,” etc.).
  - c) That's wrong. The modern perception of and expectation for what a pastor should be is wrong.
- 2. The Bible clearly states that the pastor-teacher has been given a specific task to do (by the Lord!).
  - a) The Lord has commanded the pastor to *feed* His sheep (nourish them well) and to *fend* off the wolves that would do them harm (false teachers and preachers).
    - (1) This is not to minimize the care a pastor should give to his flock, but it is meant to say that his care of the flock will be biblical—based on the Bible (teaching and application).
    - (2) That requires hours of study and prayerful preparation *daily*.
  - b) And realize too that a man called and designed by God to be a pastor-teacher doesn't mind the hours of study and preparation. Frankly, if a man is a pastor-teacher, *he likes it and lives for it*.
    - (1) To the pastor-teacher, 8-12 hours a day in the Word and in preparation to teach and lead his congregation is natural and normal. It's a joy!
    - (2) One of the greatest *frustrations* for the pastor-teacher is the *lack* of sufficient time each day to spend in the Word and prayerful preparation to lead his people according to the same.
    - (3) It's the illustration of the body again:
      - (a) A hand naturally does what a hand should do... just as a foot, an eye, or an ear.
      - (b) And when God gives a pastor-teacher to a local church, we should expect that pastor-teacher to *naturally act and live* as the member of the Body of Christ that he is.
      - (c) He will be a man given naturally and continually to reading, exhortation, and doctrine.
  - c) If a church needs counselors and program administrators, then that would be a job for those “saints” that are gifted and designed for those specific ministries.
    - (1) (Eph 4.12) And that is what we are going to talk about next week, Lord permitting.
    - (2) What I would like us to see here is the task given to the pastor (*feed* the sheep, *fend* off the wolves) and what that task looks like in the practical daily “job” (he will be given to hours each day studying the Bible and prayerfully preparing to teach and preach the same in order to lead God's church in the Mission).
    - (3) Knowing this will help us to avoid frustration because of false expectations. God expects the pastor to be a teacher—He expects him to be a pastor-teacher. Therefore we would be wrong to expect the pastor to be (primarily) a counselor or program administrator.

**(Eph 4.1, 12) God has given us a job to do: The Mission—the work of the ministry that edifies the Church.**

- (v8, 11) And He has not left us to our own devices; He has given us leaders to lead us in the work.
- God has given four specific leaders to guide us in the Mission (vocation) He expects us to do:
  1. Apostles: They lead us in reaching the unreached.
  2. Prophets: They lead us to holiness (by waking us up to live right!).
  3. Evangelists: They lead us in the essential work of the proclamation of the Gospel.
  4. Pastor-teachers: They lead a local church in God's plan by teaching Scripture and exhorting the saints to submit to and obey what the Bible says.
- (v12) These are the leaders that we should follow if we desire to be perfected (made like Christ) and prepared for the Mission of edifying the Body of Christ (being and making disciples of the Lord).

**Ask yourself:**

1. Lost: Are you saved? Are you sure that you are of Christ and that you have a home in heaven?
2. Saints: Are you *following* the leaders God put in your life.
  - We're not talking about blind obedience (like the cults). We should measure all by the Word of God!
  - But, are you *following* the leaders God put in your life. Or are you one of those Christians who would rather have it your way because that's what seems right in your own eyes?

**God calls us all to repentance and faith:**

1. He calls the unsaved sinner to turn *from* sin and self *to* the Lord for *salvation*.
2. But he also calls (daily!) the saved sinner to turn *from* sin and self *to* the Lord for *sanctification*.
  - If you are one who prefers to do that which is right in your eyes, repent.
  - Get right with God and start following the God-given, godly leadership He has provided you so that you can work in unity with other believers to get the job done—to accomplish the Mission of being and making disciples.