

“How JESUS Builds His CHURCH”
(Eph.4:7-16)

This morning we will consider how our Ascended Savior has given gifts to build up His earthly body, the church. Our text today instructs us that Jesus builds His church...

I. With Grace (vv.7- 10)

- The **Grace** Recipients (7)
- The **Grace** Giver (8-10)

II. With a Game-Plan (vv.11-12)

- **Perfecting** the Saints (11-12a)
- Performing the **Ministry** (12b)

III. With a Goal (vv.13-16)

- **Maturity** (13)
- **Stability** (14)
- **Integrity** (15)
- **Productivity** (16)

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Small Group Discussion Guide

1. **Read and discuss Eph.4:7.** What is the difference between God’s “saving” grace (Eph.2:8) and His “serving” grace (4:7)? How is this grace both a privilege and a responsibility for us?
2. **Read and discuss Eph.4:11-12.** What is the difference between “perfecting the saints” and “doing the work of the ministry” in a local church? Why is this approach to the work of the church more effective?
3. **Read and discuss Luke 22:27.** How should this attitude of Christ be an example to us? What are some practical ways we can apply this concept of service?
4. **Read and discuss Eph.4:13-16.** Consider the goals that Christ has for the church in these verses: **Spiritual Maturity** (13); **Doctrinal Stability** (14); **Integrity** (15); and **Productivity** (16). What are some things that can make these goals Challenging/difficult to achieve? What is something you (we) can do to attain each goal?

Digging Deeper:

It is interesting to see how often Paul refers to God’s “grace” in the book of Ephesians. Consider the following verses and jot down what each one teaches about God’s grace (Eph.1:2, 6-7; 2:5, 7-8; 3:2, 7-8; 4:7, 29; 6:24). How does His amazing grace motivate you?

Evaluate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 for each of the 4 goals in Eph.4:13-16 – Christ-like Maturity (4:13); Stability in Bible Doctrine (4:14); Integrity (4:15); and Productivity in the local body (4:16). Prayerfully consider your ratings and jot down one way you can improve in each of the four areas.