**THE PASTOR’S ROLE AND BODY MINISTRY SECTION**

# **Ephesians 4:11-16**

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of 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 a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. NASU

**PASTOR**: The feeder, protector, and guide, or shepherd, of a flock of God's people in New Testament times. In speaking of spiritual gifts, the apostle Paul wrote that Christ "gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" (Eph 4:11). The term pastor by this time in church history had not yet become an official title. The term implied the nourishing of and caring for God's people.

The Greek word translated pastors in Eph 4:11 is used elsewhere in the New Testament of sheepherders, literally or symbolically (Matt 25:32); of Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10); and of "shepherds," or leaders, of the church (Eph 4:11). The NKJV uses the word pastor only in this verse. Also compare Jer. 23:1-2 (KJV).[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Ephesians 4:11**: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

And he gave some. The various types mentioned are Christ's gifts to the church. Apostles: This was a special office at the beginning of the church age. The apostles had no successors. They had a unique work from the Lord Jesus (cf. Eph 2:20). Prophets: A prophet was a spokesman for God, as used ordinarily in the Scripture, this term refers to someone who has been given a direct revelation, which he is to pass on to men (cf. 2:20). In the strictest sense of the term this office also was temporary in the church, for there were no more prophets in the technical sense after the completion of the NT. Evangelists, however the function of prophecy is still in use today. Those who proclaim glad tidings - those who preach the Gospel, and Pastors and teachers are terms that go together. The first word means shepherds. Those who are the shepherds of the flock are also to be teachers. The true pastor should carry on an expository preaching ministry of the Word.

**Ephesians 4:12**: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry,” the two uses of “for” represents two different prepositions in the original. These gifts were given by God to the Church for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry. That is, it is the business of all the saints, and not of a few leaders only to carry on the work of the ministry. The leaders are for the purpose of perfecting or equipping believers to carry on this work. Most local churches today do not follow this NT idea, for it is common practice to let the pastor do the ministering. Sometimes the pastor temporarily may find it easier to do the work himself than to train others to do it, but his job is to train up workers, and in the long run his ministry will be more effective if he does so.

**The Unity of Faith and Knowledge, Eph.4:13-16.**

The unity of believers in Christ tends toward a unity in faith and knowledge.

**Ephesians 4:13**: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

The faith itself is one body of truth, and as we hold to this truth, we in turn are united to one another, unto a perfect man. A reference not to the individual believer but to the composite man; that is, the body of which Christ is the Head.

**Ephesians 4:14**: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

That we henceforth be no more children -- literally, babies tossed to and fro -- driven by the wind, which is here used, of course, figuratively - wind of teaching. By the sleight of men -- the word translated sleight originally meant dice-playing. Then it came to mean trickery of any kind, because of the various tricks that were used to cheat in the game of dice. The only way to be able to detect error is to know the truth; therefore, we must come to the knowledge of the Son of God, growing in Christian maturity. A person does not have to study every counterfeit bill in order to know that some particular bill is counterfeit. He needs only to know the genuine article.

**Ephesians 4:15**: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

But speaking the truth in love -- it is possible to speak the truth without speaking it in love, but by holding the truth -- we may grow up into him. God wants us to be mature or full-grown, to be spiritual adults. We have an absolutely perfect Head, Christ himself as our example.

**Ephesians 4:16**: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Note the perfection of the body. How intricately the human body is fitted together! It is therefore an appropriate illustration of the body of Christ. Someone has said that not everyone can be one of the larger members, but the joints are very important too. All parts work together (cf. ; 1 Cor. 12; Rom 12:1).[[2]](#footnote-2)

**1 Peter 5:1-3**: Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. NASU

**A Pastor Should Be Humble**

 Be an example of humility

 Keys to Humility:

 A humble pastor will be confident in God’s power.

 A humble pastor will be committed to God’s truth

 A humble pastor is commissioned by God’s will.

 A humble pastor is compelled by God’s knowledge.

 A humble pastor is consumed with God’s glory.

**A Pastor Has To Shepherd the Flock of God**

 The primary Objective of Shepherding is feeding the flock for if he fails at this he

 will not have a flock for long.

 How to Shepherd:

 Besides feeding the flock, the shepherd has two primary duties to his flock.

 1. He must exercise oversight of them and

2. He must lead by the example of his life.

How Not to Shepherd:

Peter warns them of two pitfalls

1. They must avoid doing what they do unwillingly.
2. They must avoid doing the work of the ministry for distasteful gain.

**To sum it all up in five categories, Paul commanded Timothy:**

1. to be faithful in his preaching of biblical truth,
2. to be bold in exposing and refuting error,
3. to be an example of godliness to the flock,
4. to be diligent and work hard in the ministry, and
5. to be willing to suffer hardship and persecution in his service for the Lord.
1. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

 (The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1962 by Moody Press). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. (from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1962 by Moody Press) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)