

Review

Last week we saw some great outcomes that come when a New Testament church is properly working.

The Process

Eph. 4:11-12

One of those outcomes is that Christians begin to experience real spiritual maturity – Verse 14.

The process that produces this outcome is found in verses 11 and 12:

- Verse 11 – real NT gifted leadership ministering to the saints (“five fold”)
- Verse 12 – the saints learning to minister themselves.
 - 12 Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, (NLT)*
 - 12 to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (NIV)*
 - 12 to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (ISV)*

Are you called to the ministry?

Everyone is! Some are called to be leaders in the church, and are given one of these Eph. 4:11 giftings.

Every believer is given three distinct ministry callings.

1. To God – worship (Psa. 34:1; Acts 13:2)
2. To the world – witness (II Cor. 5:20; Acts 1:8)
3. To one another – body ministry (I Cor. 12:13–27; I Pet. 4:10)

Spiritual Maturity

There are also *three distinct stages* of spiritual growth (I John 2:12-14).

¹² *I write to you, little children, Because your **sins are forgiven** you for His name’s sake. ¹³ I write to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.*

¹⁴ *I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

Spiritual maturity comes when begin to take responsibility for the well being of others.

Isn’t that what we’re teaching our physical children?

Who are you taking responsibility for?