



**6 “E’s”**

***OF THE***  
***CHURCH***



*Part 3*

***EQUIPPING  
THE CHURCH***







## Ephesians 4:11-14

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

## **A. Four Leadership Roles**

1. **Apostles** – 12 or 13. The main way this word is used is for the few men with a major role. They were special individuals called by Christ to go with His message: first the Kingdom, and then grace, primarily through Paul.

**There are no Apostles today.**

## A. Four Leadership Roles

2. **Prophets** – When the Bible was being written, there was a need for people who truly had a word from God to proclaim what God said. The Bible was not complete, and would not be available to each assembly, and manuscripts were expensive. That is why the letters were passed around.

- God's word is **complete**. There are no prophets today like then. *There is no new revelation!*



## **A. Four Leadership Roles**

**3. Evangelists** – They have an amazing ability to share the gospel of grace. Yet, they also teach others how to be a witness.

## A. Four Leadership Roles

4. **Shepherd-Teachers** – Not 2 positions, but 1 description of a 2 sided role. A pastor/shepherd leads, guides, helps, etc. He also teaches or opens the word of God and feeds everyone truth. He is to proclaim God's word to God's people.

The *Apostles* passed the baton to *Evangelists*.  
The *Prophets* passed the baton to the *Shepherd/pastor Teachers*.

## B. Equipping the Church for Ministry

The word “equip” or “perfected” is the Greek word “*katarismos*.” It is used only here in the NT and means, “exact adjustment which describes how (enables) the individual parts to work together in correct order.” The root is “*katartizo*,” meaning “to fit together, to prepare for a desired use, to bring to its proper condition,” or “good working order.”



## B. Equipping the Church for Ministry

The word “**ministry**” here is “*diakonia*,” which is where we get “*deacon*” from. The context is service!

The word can refer to someone who waits tables, or one who serves. For the believer, it is his or her “Spirit empowered service guided by faith.”

## C. What does it Mean to be a Follower of Christ at GraceLife?

This is a *group effort!*

The goal is **unity through maturity.**

We are first... **Followers of Jesus!**

## **C. What does it Mean to be a Follower of Christ at GraceLife?**

**Following is, “A system of thought according to which one willingly follows the Lord Jesus Christ with all one’s heart, mind, soul, and strength in every circumstance regardless of organizational position while submitting to fellow followers so that all might fulfill their God given responsibilities.” *Followerfirst, Rusty Ricketson, 198.***

## **C. What does it Mean to be a Follower of Christ at GraceLife?**

**He is our:**

**Leader, Savior, Provider, Shepherd, King,  
Lord and Master...**

**We:**

**Belong to Him, depend on Him, submit to  
Him, worship Him and in all we do, we do for  
His glory in His power by His grace.**



## Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

## Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*Verses 3-14*, Paul warns about specific sins and reminds them that those who live lifestyles of sin, have NO inheritance in the Kingdom, but God's wrath will be upon them.

## Ephesians 5:15-21

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

What does it look like to live  
these things out at  
GraceLife?

- We are to be a church where the truth is upheld, in doctrine, and in normal conversation.
- We are to be careful of our anger.
- We are to work hard and watch our mouth.
- We are to honor God.
- Put away sin and be kind to one another.
- We are to imitate God.
- Walk in love, be wise, and use the time God has given to us and not be foolish.
- Be continually filled with the Spirit.
- Encouraging one another in song and praising God with thanksgiving.

- We are to be faithful to do what God wants us to do, out of love for Him.
- We fulfill our roles.
- We deal with failures appropriately.
- We hold each other accountable.
- We are to be good stewards of the resources God has given to us.
- We follow Christ in all we do and say.
- He is our Leader and He rewards us.
- Starting with a follower perspective, changes our attitudes, how we interact with each other, take note of those who are faithful, and influence each other.