

“Rethinking church”

Ephesians 4:11-16

A few reasons for “rethinking church”:

- **Maxing out in ministry**
- **Our back door**
- **Pastor job description in American church**
- **Passion to see people grow in Christ.**

A few of our sacred cows:

- **Centrality of “the Pastor”**
- **The “laity”**
- **Sermon is the main reason for church**
- **Spiritual growth is mostly about knowledge.**
- **Church as a place to attend vs. a life-giving group of believers to be with**

Some questions:

- 1. What is the body of Christ [church] trying to “become” [v. 13]? Why is this important?**
- 2. What is the role of leadership [vv. 11-12] in helping the body of Christ become mature? What does this say about how we view leaders at Hope?**
- 3. How are the rest of the believers viewed by Paul [vv. 12, 16]? Very important? Somewhat important? Not important? How does this compare to the way we view believers at Hope?**
- 4. What does it mean to be “equipped to serve” in the body of Christ [v. 12]? How can HCC begin to move toward becoming an “equipping” church, where the body is built up by all?**

NLT¹¹ He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, ¹³until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. ¹⁵Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

NIV¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

NKJV¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, ⁿfor the ⁵edifying of ^othe body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith ^pand of the knowledge of the Son of God, to ^qa perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be ^rchildren, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of ^sdeceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the ^hhead—Christ—¹⁶^ufrom whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
