

## **“All hands on deck...”**

Ephesians 4:11-16

### **1. The church is destined to become the fullness of Christ on earth... [v. 13]**

- “All”
- “Come”
- “To”
  - “the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God”
  - “a perfect man”
  - “*the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*”

“fullness” [pleroma] = “completeness, the absence of any lacunae [holes, gaps].” [TDNT]

*“The church, which is the body of Christ, represents in its perfected form, the fullness of Christ.” [TDNT]*

### **2. ...by leaders equipping each part of the body of Christ to serve one another. [Vv. 11-12, 16]**

- “Leaders” –
- “Equip” –
  - “*...to be spiritually and emotionally nurtured, trained and strengthened to be a giver and not just a taker, in the likeness of Jesus Christ*”
- “Each part” –
- “Serve” –
- “One another” –

## **Organized and programmed vs. organic and relational?**

“Ephesians 4:1-16 describes a humble and loving church who is responsive to her present task and eager to reach her goal. Such a church will not consider herself an empire-builder. She will not pretend that she possesses, masters and administers the Lord and his gifts. She will be meek before the Lord and modest before unbelievers. She has a promise to trust, a way in which to go, a commitment to fulfill, and an energy given to her, which are not her own. The church is as much as, but no more than, a happy migrating people moving forward to the day of redemption. *She is a hard-working community of servants who accept their call into God’s witness stand for the sake of the whole creation.*”

[Barth, “Epistle to the Ephesians”, p. 497 – volume II]