



EPHESIANS 4:11-16

UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, PART II

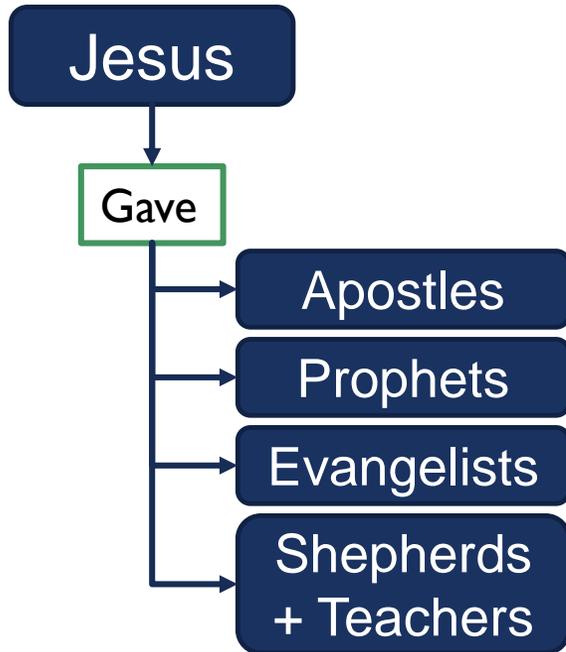
REVIEW

- We are called to be part of God's one unified church, his body (Eph 2, 4:4-6)
- Our calling requires us to act differently to maintain unity (Eph 4:1-3)
- Our unity is based what we have in common with all true believers (Eph 4:4-6)
- Christ gives different gifts to the church (Eph 4:7-10)
- Ultimately, God will unite all things through the filling of Christ (Eph 4:10, John 17:20-23, Eph 1:9-10)

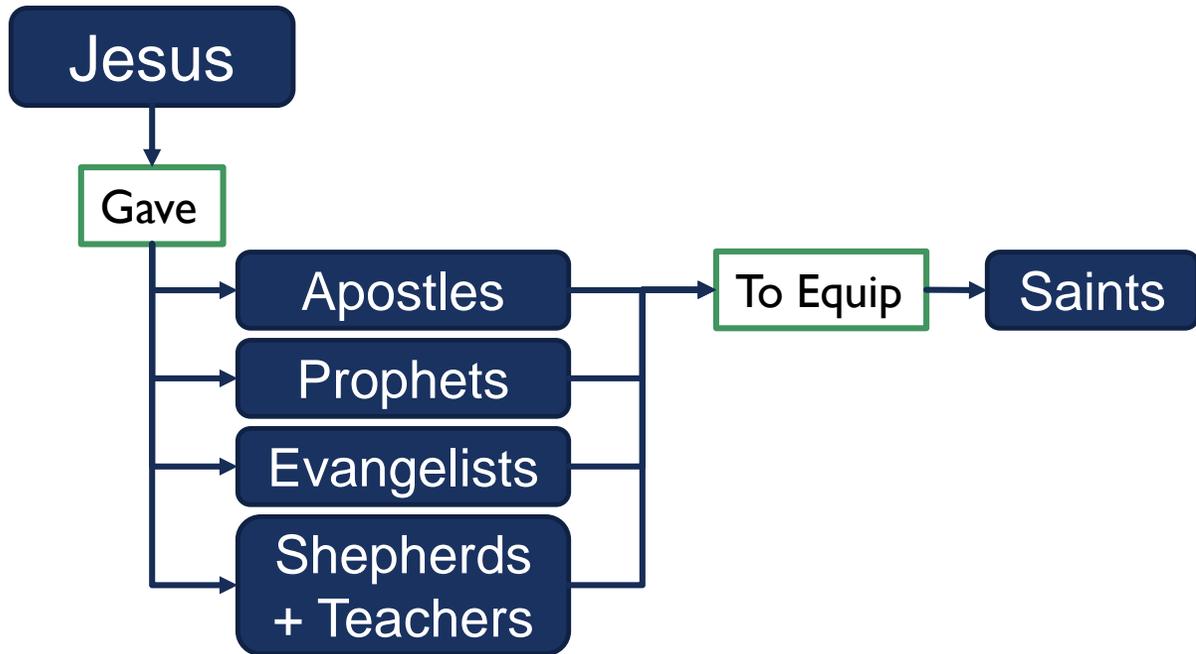
OUTLINE

- Christ's Design for the Church
- Christ's Goal for the Church
- Applications to the Church

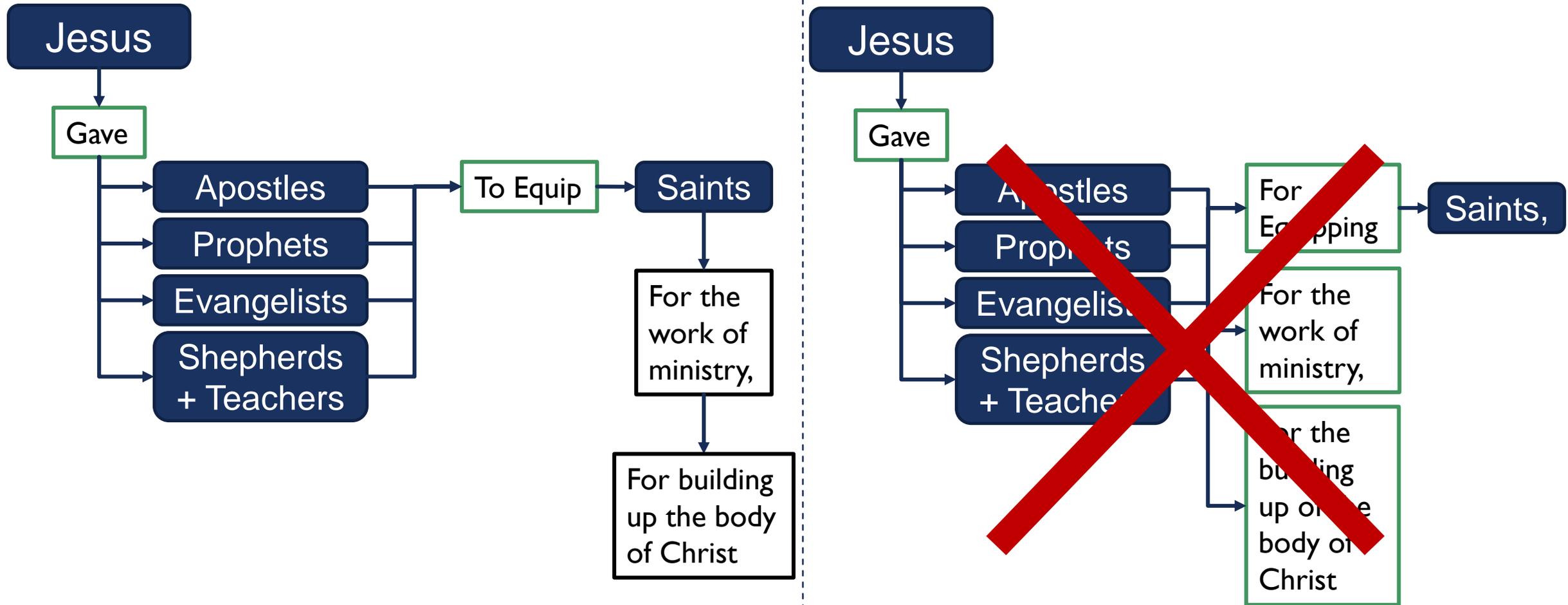
CHRIST'S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)



CHRIST'S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)



CHRIST'S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)



CHRIST'S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)

- What are some examples of “ministries” that “build up” the church, that saints are “equipped for”?
 - Exercising your spiritual gifts (1 Cor 14:26, Rom 12, 1 Cor 12-14)
 - 1 Cor 14:26 “When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”
 - Service
 - Administration
 - Showing Mercy
 - Giving
 - Etc.
 - Wise, grace-giving words
 - Eph 4:29 - “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.”
 - Every good work
 - 2 Tim 3:16-17 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

CHRIST'S GOAL FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)

Jesus

Gave

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Shepherds
+ Teachers

To Equip

Saints

For the
work of
ministry

For building
up the body
of Christ

UNTIL

We all Attain

To Unity

To Maturity

To Fullness
of Christ

CHRIST'S GOAL FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)

- Attain to the Unity
 - Of the Faith
 - Of the Knowledge of the Son of God
 - 1 Jn 3:2 “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”
- Attain to mature manhood
- Attain to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
 - Eph 3:19: “...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

CHRIST'S GOAL FOR THE CHURCH (VS 11-12)

Jesus

Gave

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Shepherds
+ Teachers

To Equip

Saints

For the
work of
ministry

For building
up the body
of Christ

UNTIL

We all Attain

To Unity

To Maturity

To Fullness
of Christ

of the faith

of the knowledge
of the Son of God

So that....



Not children



Not tossed
about

APPLICATIONS TO THE CHURCH

- Be thankful for the leaders God has given our church
- Church leaders should focus on equipping the saints
- Pastor/Teachers should not feel like they have to do everything
- Saints should get involved in service
- Your service matters, and Christ is using it to build his church, to His glory!
 - Persevere. Run the race with endurance!
 - Serve with joy, for God has prepared works for YOU to do!
- Christ started the process and God enables it
 - There is no room for pride in ministry
 - Trust Christ with the results of your labors
 - Give glory to Christ for the results

APPLICATIONS TO THE CHURCH

- Positional unity
 - Our primary identity is as a part of the body of Christ.
 - We should love all our true brothers and sisters, even if we don't feel practical unity (yet)
 - Implies lack of unity with those OUTSIDE the body of Christ. (I.e., there are first-level doctrines)
- Practical unity: How to achieve deep practical unity?
 - ~~Don't preach controversial doctrines or precise truths~~
 - ~~Win arguments so everyone ends up agreeing with you~~
 - Equip the saints, Do the work of ministry, Build up the body, Speak the truth in love.
 - Our primary focus is on becoming more Christ-like, and helping others become more Christ-like
 - Our hearts are to be focused on loving our brothers, not winning arguments against "them"
 - As hearts mutually become like Christ, the natural result is deep unity