Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

26 November 2006 Single Message

NIV 50 Minutes

**Our Task, Your Task**

Title

***Ephesians 4:11-13***

**Topic:** Ministry

**Theme:** Christ made Tom and me pastor-teachers

**Thrust:** to equip you to be like Christ

**Purpose:** The listeners will pursue Christ-likeness by doing the work of ministry themselves rather than expecting the pastor-teachers to do it

**Reading:** Acts 6:1-6 (a related text good for background but not expounded in this sermon)

Homiletical Outline Manuscript (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: [Why did God bring you here to CIC?]

EDS clip

#### {Without any intro play the EDS clip of building planes in the air}

#### What’s the point? Let’s play a guessing game and see if in your small group you can figure out why I showed this clip to you.

#### What did your group say? [Take responses.] Here are some other guesses:

##### Be careful when you pour your coffee?

##### Crossroads is a fly-by-the-seat-of-our-pants church?

##### We all have a part to play here--even while the jet is moving!

#### Why did God bring you here to CIC?

CIC?

##### You didn’t come because you see this church as a finished product!

##### You didn’t come due to us offering the variety of programs of a large church.

##### Maybe you came because someone twisted your arm!

##### Each of us actually came due to a perceived need—a need to meet with God, a need to connect with people, or another need—which raises the question…

### Need: What do you *really* need in a church?

### Subject: Why did Christ bring all of us here—leaders and people alike? What are our biblical roles? They have gotten blurred over the ages, which calls for a fresh look at Ephesians 4 today.

Subject

### Background: Let’s see how chapter 4 fits into the rest of the book.

#### Ephesians 1–3 speaks of how God has made Jews and Gentiles one in Christ. That may not seem a big deal today, but to say that all ethnic groups were equal in God’s sight was HUGE then!

Chart

#### Chapter 4 underscores this in its call to unity in verses 1-6, then how that unity is shown in verses 7-16.

##### This section begins by showing how Christ left earth for Hades and then when He ascended into Paradise he gave gifts to the *entire* church (7-10).

7-10

##### And He did not leave the church without a plan for both leaders and followers alike. Roles are given (11-12a) then both the purpose (12b-13) and results of this unity (14-16).

Context

### Text: Today we will address only Ephesians 4:11-13 as this is the heart of the passage.

### Preview: We’ll see the *roles* of leaders & people alike, then the *purpose* we have these roles. The “*what”* will be followed by the “*why*.*”*

### Transition: Let’s start with the “what” question, “What are our roles—both as pastor-teachers and congregation?”

# I. (11-12a) Christ called us pastor-teachers to equip you for your ministries.

MP

 [The Lord Jesus designed us to be shepherds who will train the sheep to use their gifts.]

## (11) Christ gave four types of equippers to the church. I know it looks like five, but hold on. I’ll explain in a minute.

### (11a) Some equippers were apostles.

Apostles

#### Some believe this gift to be here today and Singapore has even appointed its own apostles.

#### But apostles were the highest of the spiritual gifts that God gave to equip the church by planting the first churches and writing Scripture.

#### Since they needed to see Christ (Acts 1) and do miracles (2 Cor. 12:12), we don’t have apostles today, so we’ll not focus on them today. As Ephesians 2:20 says, they were for the foundation of the Church.

### (11b) Some equippers were prophets.

Prophets

#### Prophets are literally those who are the mouthpiece for God.

#### In 2 Peter 1:20-21 we see that they spoke God’s word without error or interpretation.

#### Deuteronomy 18 adds that they need to be 100% accurate and turn people to God.

#### Ephesians 2:20 adds that, with the apostles, they set the foundation of the Church. On top of this are the other gifts of verse 11.

#### Since prophets ended with the last prophecy of John in Revelation 22:18-19, any prophecy today would be adding to Scripture, so we need not concern ourselves with this gift either.

### (11c) Some equippers are evangelists.

Evangelists

#### We often think of evangelists only as those who share Christ, but verse 12 will tell us that they are also supposed to train the saints for evangelism.

#### I’ll say some about this later, so I won’t focus our attention here either now.

### (11d) Some equippers are pastor-teachers.

Pastor-Teachers

#### Of course, Christ is the Good Shepherd, but we’re talking about guys like Tom and me—along with others in our body who shepherd others.

#### Does the “pastors and teachers” refer to one gift or two? The Greek construction ties these two together so it is more appropriate to call them “pastor-teachers.”

#### While not every teacher will be a pastor, every pastor *must* be a teacher!

#### Tom and I want to grow into this position—with your help! One pastor noted, “Of course, feel free anytime to let me know what you think of the job I’m doing as your pastor.” Of course, everyone responded accordingly with their Olympic judge marks! That’s why we are establishing the forum on the website.

Pastor Evaluation

(So what is my divine job description as pastor? Interestingly, this is the *only* time the word “pastor” occurs in the NT, so this alone ought to encourage us to sit up and notice what Christ says about the role. The first part of verse 12 says…)

## (12a) As pastor-teachers our role is to train each believer for his own ministry.

### The KJV translation here is unfortunate as it puts the ministry solely into the hands of the pastors! Here’s where a comma after “the perfecting of the saints” gives pastors a three-fold job!

KJV

#### for (pro,j) the perfecting of the saints,

#### for (ei,j) the work of the ministry,

#### for (ei,j) the edifying of the body of Christ.

### Like this, many Christians expect their pastor to do everything—but is this best for the pastor and for the people?

#### This advertisement appeared in a local newspaper: “Wanted: Pastor for a growing church—a real challenge for the right man. Must know about all problems of birth, life, sickness, and death. Must know how to operate and fix copier. Able to sound learned at times but most of the time sounds like good-ole-Joe. Must pretend he likes hearing women talk. Applicant’s wife must be both stunning and plain, never discouraged. Applicants will undergo evaluation by a committee of 100 to determine sanity.”

Wanted

#### Many Christians expect their pastor to do everything. I actually found “Super Pastor” on a website for “Crossroads School”! He does it all… Some pastors recently told me that their people even expect them to cut the grass!

Super Pastor

(Speaking of cutting, is a pastor doing everything best for the pastor—or for the people? I think that’s about as smart as surfing with sharks!)

## The key concept in verses 11-13 is “equip.”

### What is “equipping”?

Equipping

#### This is a noun has the idea of training (UBS) and appears only here in the NT

#### The verb form ([UBS] katarti,zw “prepare,” NIV) has the idea of to mend, restore, set right, make complete.

#### It carries this idea in 1 Thessalonians 3:10 and Hebrews 13:21.

### Equipping the saints is best for both the pastor and for the people.

Best

#### Equipping others is best for me as a pastor-teacher.

##### The pastor who does all the work of ministry himself will soon burn out—like trying to hold the sun!

##### Pastor John was the chief carpenter at his new church building, so he couldn’t preach well and ended up leaving the church.

##### A better reading of Ephesians 4:12 is in the NASB and NIV.

#### Equipping others is best for you people too.

##### All have the same “grace” (4:7)—Most of the ministry happens through the members—not the leaders!

##### The church is one body with parts that need each other (1 Cor. 12)— You all need to belong; so each of you should have a ministry here.

##### All are called and have the same armor (6:10-17)—so if I don’t train you to do ministry yourself then I will rob you of the blessing of battling for Christ.

#### Greeks had to learn how to get everyone involved. We will too!

(So here’s God’s plan… But *how* should Tom and I equip you all?)

### Instead of doing the ministry ourselves, our goal is to train you in several ways.

Train

#### We are willing to do servant roles, but this should not be our chief focus.

##### The apostles refused to neglect God’s Word to serve food in Acts 6.

##### While Christ washed his disciples’ feet, He did this only once—doing it all the time would have detracted from his equipping ministry (John 13).

#### We must equip you in the Word of God.

#### We must equip you how to pray.

#### We’ll show you the tasks and then get out of the way so you do them alone.

### Now it’s time to get your thoughts on another clip—ready? What’s the point?

Herding Cats clip

#### Don’t let the cat scratch you?

#### Crossroads people are like cats that can‘t be herded?

#### Divergent people like us can still move together towards Christ-likeness!

(I said earlier we’d address our roles and the purpose—or the “what” followed by the “why.” We have already seen that Christ called us pastor-teachers to equip you for your own ministries. But *why* is this equipping good both for pastor-teachers and people?)

# II. (12b-13) Your being equipped will make this church like Christ.

MP

 [Our training you will result in us becoming like Jesus.]

## Equipping builds us in the faith (12b).

Builds

### What does it mean to “build up”?

### It’s basic meaning is to “encourage.” The word is even used of a building.

### Paul uses the same word in verses 16 and 29.

### Basically, it means that one result of the pastor-teacher’s equipping is that the people will be encouraged as they do the work of ministry.

## Equipping unites us in the faith (13a).

Unites

### A church that expects its pastor to serve them ends up selfish and divided.

### When each member feels needed because of his or her ministry contribution, the body unites together in mutual dependency.

## Equipping teaches us about Christ (13b).

Teaches

### A true knowledge of Christ includes his character—giving, etc.

### We ought to be continually growing in understanding the many wonders about Christ—and this comes through the pastor’s equipping ministry.

## Equipping matures us to be like Christ (13c).

Matures

 [The goal of this equipping is Christ-likeness.]

### God desires the body to become as mature and perfect as Christ Himself.

### Maturity cannot happen when believers push their entire ministry onto the pastor’s shoulders—the “fullness of Christ” comes only through the hard knocks of ministry.

(So how can we sum up these three verses all together?)

# Conclusion

### We began today with this question: Why did Christ bring all of us here—leaders and people alike?

Subject

### Christ called Tom and me to equip you to be like Christ (MI).

MI

#### Our job is to equip you rather than do everything ourselves (11-12a).

#### Equipping you is the best way for you to grow into Christ-likeness (12b-13).

### So What? (Exhortation/Application)

So What?

#### Your Role

Your Role

##### How can the pastor-teachers better equip you?

###### We seek to prioritize our ministry responsibilities around the Word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7).

###### This means that some minor things may have to go undone.

###### Who wants equipping in evangelism? Budmaa can help.

##### What role are you being equipped for?

###### Let us know your areas of passion—and we’ll set you loose!

###### Do you know your spiritual gift(s)?

#### Your Goal

Your Goal

##### What character trait of Christ are you trusting God to equip in you in the coming year?

##### How can Crossroads help you develop here?

### Prayer

Black

26 November 2006 Rick Griffith

**Our Task, Your Task**

***Ephesians 4:11-13***

# Introduction

### Clip: What does building a plane in the air have to do with us?

### Subject: Why did God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bring you here to CIC?

### Preview: Today we’ll see the *roles* of leaders & people alike, then the *purpose* we have these roles. The “*what”* will be followed by the “*why*.”

# I. (11-12a) Christ called us as pastor-teachers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ equip you for your ministries.

##  (11) Christ gave four types of equippers to the church:

* (11a) Some equippers are apostles.
* (11b) Some equippers are prophets.
* (11c) Some equippers are evangelists.
* (11d) Some equippers are pastor-teachers.

##  (12a) As pastor-teachers our role is to train you for your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ own ministry.

(But why are you supposed to be equipped in the first place?)

# II. (12b-13) Your being equipped will make this church like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

## Equipping \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ encourages us in the faith (12b).

## Equipping \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unites us in the faith (13a).

## Equipping \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ teaches us about Christ (13b).

## Equipping \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ matures us like Christ (13c).

# Conclusion

### Main Idea: Christ called Tom and me to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ equip you to be like Christ!

### So what?

#### *Your Role:* How can your pastor-teachers better equip you? For what role?

#### *Your Goal:* What trait of Christ are you trusting God to develop in you? How?