

## Community Group Discussion Questions

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### “The Sufficiency of the Church” Ephesians 4:11-16

**Sermon Series Title:** “The Church of God”

**Sermon Series Summary:** The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

**Passage Setting:** Ephesians is written by the apostle Paul when he was in prison. The first three chapters of this letter cover the blessings of our salvation by grace, our regeneration by His Spirit, our reconciliation with God and others, who we are as a church, the mysteries of the gospel, and Paul’s prayer for our growth in it. We talked about the unity of the church through the first seven verses of this chapter.

**Summary:** Christ has given Himself and His gifts to the church. We need one another, and we have been equipped with the gifts to build one another up in love. That is how we grow together in Christ.

**Central Truth:** “May we be found in Christ’s love and be equipped to do ministry in His name.”

**Sermon Points:**

1. Our Ministry
2. Our Maturity
3. Our Mentality

**Opening Question**

1. What does it mean and look like to grow in Christ?

*(Answers may vary.)*

***After speaking on the unity of the church in the first seven verses and then Christ in the next three verses, we see Paul talking about the sufficiency of the church. Here, we will see what growth for the Christian looks like.***

***Read Ephesians 4:11-16***

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2. What are the gifts you have for the building up of the body?

*(Ephesians 4:12 it's very profound. Paul, in the previous verse, lists the roles of leaders, and those who teach/instruct the church. In verse 12, we see that the leading/shepherding/teaching are all for the purpose of equipping the saints for the ministry. This means that the work of the ministry is not for the shepherds and teachers, but the work of the ministry is for all the saints. And as we utilize our gifts, we see that it is all for the building up of the church and the glory of God. We all have gifts that Christ has given to us. And we all are called to utilize those gifts to serve one another.)*

3. How can we grow in our faith?

*(We see it in our passage. We grow through being united in our faith, learning more about Jesus, and growing in the fullness of Christ. We are to grow in our understanding of Jesus, so much that we will not be tossed back and forth by the waves of this world. This is all possible, when we are utilizing our gifts to serve one another. This means that serving the church and those around us will help us to grow in our faith.)*

4. What keeps us united in Christ?

*(Jesus is the head, and we are to grow up in Him. We are to come to Him over and over again. We speak the truth, meaning that we don't just speak truth but we live truth. An this truth is covered with love. Lastly, we utilize our gifts to bless one another. That is how we can stay united in Christ.)*

***Final Thoughts:*** *Ministry isn't just for the staff or leaders of a church. Ministry is for everyone, and the Lord equips us through one another. We are called to utilize our gifts to build one another up, grow in our understanding of Christ, and live out truth in love. We can do this, because Christ first loved us in truth through the cross.*