



DEVOTION

Embracing Our Roles

By Greg Laurie on May 2, 2025

"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

-Ephesians 4:13

God didn't say, "I desire unity in the church. Good luck with that." Instead, He designed the church so that it would promote unity. In Ephesians 4:11–12, the apostle Paul tells us that Christ gives people specific gifts so that they can fill specific offices in the church. When those officers use their gifts to fulfill their responsibilities, something amazing happens. Connections are made. Fellowship occurs. Bonds of unity are forged.

Some people are called—and gifted—to be apostles. They don't have the authority of Jesus' apostles, but they are special ambassadors of God's work. Apostles may plant churches or serve as liaisons to other Christian organizations.

Some people are equipped to be prophets. They don't have the same authority as biblical prophets, but they speak the words of God that agree with the Old and New Testaments. In 1 Corinthians 14:29, Paul emphasized that the words of prophets are subject to the discernment and authority of church leaders.

Some people are equipped to be evangelists. That is, they are specially gifted to share the Good News of Christ with others.

And some people are equipped to be pastors and teachers. We shepherd the flock by making God's Word accessible, understandable, and applicable. Often that involves building a bridge to our audience or making a connection to get their attention. Ultimately, though, the power of our message is not in some quote from a secular philosopher or a pop star or some other iconic figure. The power is in the Word of God.

God said in Isaiah 55:11, "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it" (NLT).

And Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16–17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we

are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (NLT).

My job, and the job of all pastors and teachers, is not to make the Bible relevant. The Bible is relevant. I just need to let the lion out of the cage and let the Word of God do what it does best, change lives.

In the bigger picture, Christ equips the leaders of the church to equip God’s people to serve. This common experience—of learning the truth of God’s Word, of being equipped, and of sharing a commitment to serve—strengthens the unity among church members.

When we embrace our roles, the body of Christ grows, and the members of that body learn to work in unity.

Reflection Question: How can you help create or nurture a spirit of unity in your church? *Discuss this with believers like you on Harvest Discipleship!*