

All or a Few

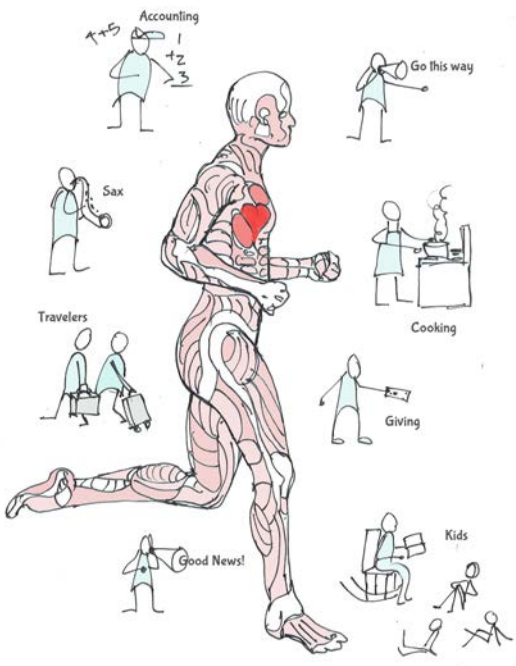
- Sometimes **everyone** who goes to an event is an active participant
 - Going out to eat
- Other times **only a few** of those who go to an event are active participants
 - Solo concert

1

All or a Few

- What are some situations where **everyone** who goes to an event is an active participant?
- What are some situations where **only a few** of those who go to an event are active participants?
- When is **everyone supposed to be** an active participant, but maybe not everyone is?
 - School
 - Why aren't some people active participants?
- What is the right model for **church**?

2



**As Every Part
does its Part
Ephesians 4:1-16**

bib.ly/Eph4.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

3

GROWING +
in Christ
together
through all of us



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Ephesians

Letter from the Apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus

Chapters 1-3: **Theology**

→ Right thinking about God and people

Chapters 4-6: **Practice/application**

→ Right attitudes, words, and actions
which should flow from and express the right thinking

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Theology: unity including **great** diversity

“the mystery of his will...—**to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**” *1:9-10*

“And God placed **all things under [Christ’s] feet** and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, **the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**” *1:22-23*

“His purpose was to create in himself **one new humanity** out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to **reconcile both of them to God through the cross,** by which he **put to death their hostility.**” *2:15-16*

6

Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7

Ephesians 4:7-10

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

8

Ephesians 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

9

Ephesians 4:14-16

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

10

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11

Ephesians 4:1-16

1-6: We are called to unity rooted in the unity of God

- The quality of our lives should match the wonder of God's design for filling the universe with Christ's glory
- "With all humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love" → beautiful!!
 - NOT enforced, and NOT covering injustice
- Our commitment: **make every effort** for unity
 - NOT ignoring unity until everything is good
- Rooted in the unity of God

7-10: • He has authority over all people

• He works through all people

11-16: • His presence is in all His people

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13

Ephesians 4:1-16

1-6: We are called to unity rooted in the unity of God

7-10: Expressed in the diversity of our gifts **from Christ**

- “Grace” = gift for serving (rather than salvation)
- Christ’s victory over sin and death is matched by His giving these gifts to all His children
- By His wise and loving choice and design
 - Different gifts in different amounts
 - As Jesus chooses
 - So no pride!! And no envy!!
 - Every one has His signature

11-16: • So that He can fill the whole universe through us!

14

Ephesians 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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16

Ephesians 4:1-16

1-6: We are called to unity rooted in the unity of God

7-10: Expressed in the diversity of our gifts from Christ

**11-16: Equipping every one to do the works of service
to build up the body of Christ into Christ**

- Some gifts are for the purpose of growing and empowering all gifts
- **All** God's people are to do the "works of service"
 - This is the real ministry of the church
- Builds up the body to unity and maturity
 - Otherwise, the church is like a perpetual infant
- This only works as every part does its work

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The Big Idea

God's will & work in the world is
 through each and every Christian
 united and working together in Christ

The
 Church

using the gifts given to each one as Jesus chooses
 and equipped by God's work in the church

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~~people~~
 What ~~muscles~~ does it take for
 the ~~human body~~ to do useful work?
~~church~~

~~church leadership~~
 What is the role of the ~~heart and lungs~~?

~~church leadership~~
 The ~~heart and lungs~~ make it possible
 for the ~~other muscles~~ to do the real
 work. ~~people~~

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The Big Idea

God's will & work in the world is through each and every Christian united and working together in Christ using the gifts given to each one as Jesus chooses and equipped by God's work in the church

21

Application

Deeply value every person in the church

- All ages, races, nationalities, sexes, life situations, personalities, socio-economic classes, abilities, ...
- Intentionally look for and correct possible hindrances
 - Actively work to overcome individual prejudices and systemic barriers and biases among us
 - In other words: choose to love **us all!**
- The good of the overall church depends on the contributions of each person in the church
- We know we need to grow in this
- We want to grow in this
- Do you see a problem? Let's work together to address it!

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Application

Deeply value every person in the church

Call each person to do the works of service as gifted and enabled by Christ

- The real work of the church is done by all the people of the church
- “It is every believer’s responsibility to find, develop, and fully use whatever capacities for service God has given.”
- Different roles have different qualifications. For example...
 - For some roles you must be a Christian or a member
 - For other roles that isn’t required
- What are these “capacities for service”?

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“Capacities for service”

There is no fixed list. Let’s be creative!

- Traditional categories: Word and Action
- Or...
 - Head: words / thinking → **Writing, editing, speaking, analysis, ...**
 - Heart: relational / emotion → **Connecting with people/God, ...**
 - Hands: action / productivity → **Setup, food, helps, rides, ...**
 - Some combination
 - All: love! → **Otherwise: only ‘clanging cymbals’**
- The focus: external or internal (or both)
- Explicitly Christian, or implicitly (enacted values of God)
- Old tech (birthday cards) or new (virtual worlds)

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Application

Deeply value every person in the church
Call each person to do the work of service
as gifted and enabled by Christ

- How to find my place...
 - What does the Bible describe and illustrate?
 - What values are important in my culture?
 - What do I care about?
 - What do I have some ability for?
 - What are the needs we see and sense?
- Let's explore and experiment!
- Together

25

Application

Deeply value every person in the church
Call each person to do the work of service
as gifted and enabled by Christ

Take “equipping” seriously

- It is the church's responsibility to **call**, to **equip**, and to **empower** every one of Christ's people to engage in the works of serving for the good of Christ's body and for the good of world
- We know we need to grow in this
- We want to grow in this
- **And some of us have a gift for this!**

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GROWING +
in Christ
together
through all of us

Our vision for our church in 2021

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**We can only be what God has called us to be
when every part is doing its part**

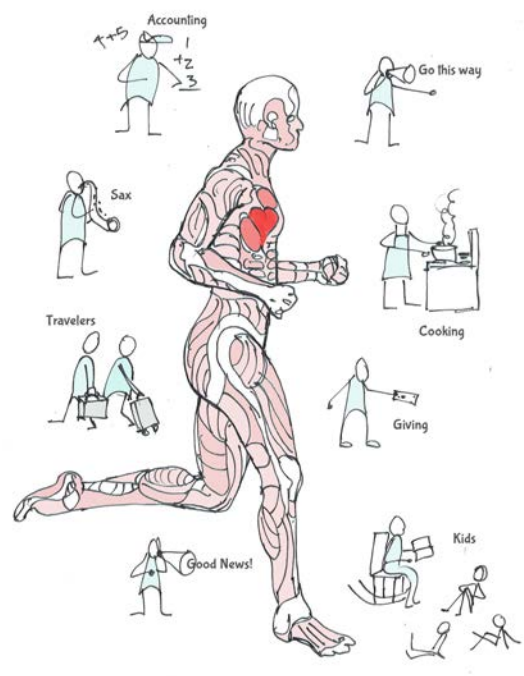
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The Big Idea

God's will & work in the world is through each and every Christian united and working together in Christ using the gifts given to each one as Jesus chooses and equipped by God's work in the church

There is great joy in using what God has given you to do what God wants done. We invite everyone into this joy!

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The diagram shows a central human figure with a red heart. Surrounding the figure are several small illustrations of people engaged in different activities, each with a label: 'Accounting' (a person with a calculator and numbers), 'Go this way' (a person pointing), 'Sax' (a person playing a saxophone), 'Cooking' (a person at a stove), 'Travelers' (two people with suitcases), 'Giving' (a person handing something to another), 'Good News!' (a person shouting), and 'Kids' (a person rocking a child).

“Exercise”: usually a struggle
 → sometimes a joy
 When the human body is functioning in harmony to do productive work with each part doing its part, it is a joy to see!
 When Christ's body is functioning in harmony to do God's work of loving service in the world with each part doing its part, it is great joy to be included and to be a part of God's plan

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God is at work!

GROWING +
in Christ
together
through all of us

Let's live out His calling for each of us together!