

## Two Kinds of Events

### A few are active & most watch

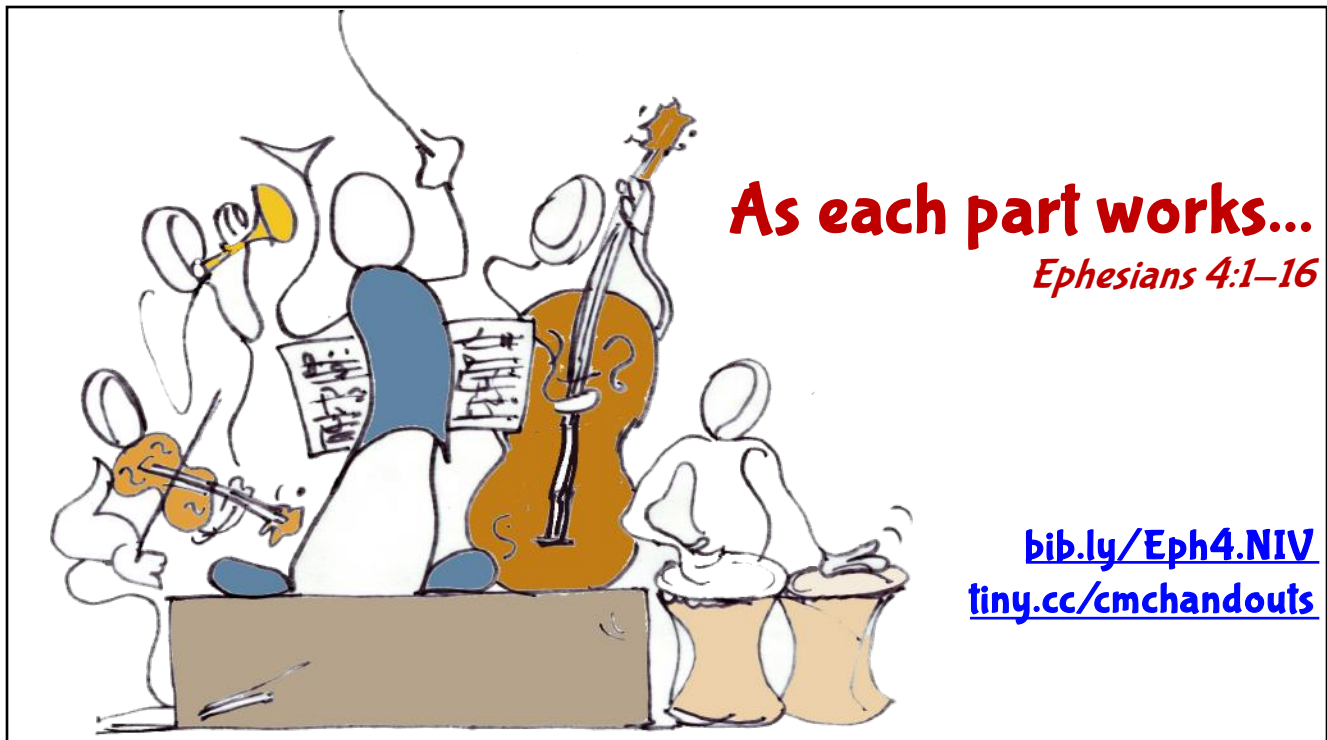
- Spectator sports
  - 22 people on the field  
badly in need of rest
  - 70,000 people in the stands  
badly in need of exercise

### Everyone is active

- A restaurant

**What is God's vision for His people?**

1



2

## The Letter to the Ephesian Church

### Truth (chapters 1-3)

- Christ has done the work **to restore all creation to God**
  - “to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ” *Ephesians 1:10*
- Christ has done the work to **reconcile people from every nation to Himself and to each other in one new humanity**
  - “to create in himself one new humanity” reconciled to God *Ephesians 2:15-16*

### In action (chapters 4-6)

3

## The Letter to the Ephesian Church

### Truth (chapters 1-3)

#### What Jesus cares most about:

- **Reconciling all peoples together in Christ and to God for His glory**

#### In our words...

- **Welcoming and transforming the peoples of all nations to be united in the praise of God in Christ**

### In action (chapters 4-6)

- **Given this purpose of Christ, what are we to do?**

4

*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.

God's command: live as one people according to our fundamental unity in God (Father, Son, & Spirit)

5

*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.)

Christ gives gifts (abilities) to individuals...

6

*Ephesians 4:11-14*

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.

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.

Christ gives gifts (abilities) to individuals so the whole community will mature

7

*Ephesians 4:15-16*

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**.

Instead of being infants

- thrashing about with fads and schemes
- we'll together be mature and Christlike when each part is doing its part for the whole

8

### The Big Idea

The community of Christians  
grows and matures into Christ  
as every person does their part every day in love

9

A “typical” orchestra  
What are the roles?



10

What's wrong with this orchestra?

Who makes the sound  
that you hear  
on a recording  
of an orchestra?



11

What is the conductor's role?  
What is everyone else's role?  
When is an orchestra doing  
what it is meant to do?

When is the Church doing  
what it is meant to do?

- On meeting days
- AND every day
- When we are together
- AND when we are apart



12

The community of Christians  
grows and matures into Christ  
as every person  
does their part every day  
in love

God rejoices  
when every person  
plays the music God gives  
on the instrument(s) God gives  
as one people every day



13

**The Christian community enables itself to grow in love  
when all its individual members use the gifts  
that have been measured out to them by Christ**

**The ministry of the church...**

- is not the obligation of a few  
but rather **the responsibility of every believer**
- is a rich blend of **when we are together  
AND when we are apart**

14

## Worship Service

- We all join in the **work of giving praise and praying to God**
  - The music team and platform voices are only there to help us join our hearts and voices together to worship God
- and **encouraging each other**, and **spurring each other on**
- **being equipped** for 7-day-a-week ministry
  - Role of some: “to equip his people for works of service”
  - **Head:** mind renewed through God’s Word
  - **Heart:** be convinced of the truthfulness of God’s Word as the Word of God to us today
  - **Hands:** be motivated, guided, and empowered to apply God’s Word
  - with an opportunity **to practice the works of service**

15

The community of Christians  
grows and matures into Christ  
as every person  
does their part every day  
in love



16



## Application

### Know that every person in Christ is vital to Christ's work through His people

- There are no unneeded or irrelevant people in Christ!
  - That includes every single person
  - Even when we feel irrelevant
  - Even when we belittle ourselves (or others) because of having less education, or less money, or lower social standing, or less strength, or less ability, or more trouble, or ...

17

“Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called.

Not many of you were wise by human standards;  
not many were influential;  
not many were of noble birth.

But

God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;  
God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.  
God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” *1 Corinthians 1:26-29*

18

“But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, **every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.** If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

“But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that **its parts should have equal concern for each other.**” *1 Corinthians 12:18-20, 24-25*

19

### Application

**Know that every person in Christ is vital to Christ's work through His people**

- The work of every person matters!
  - The body grows and matures **as each part does its work** given by Christ

20

## Application

### So: We all should do the work Christ has given for each to do

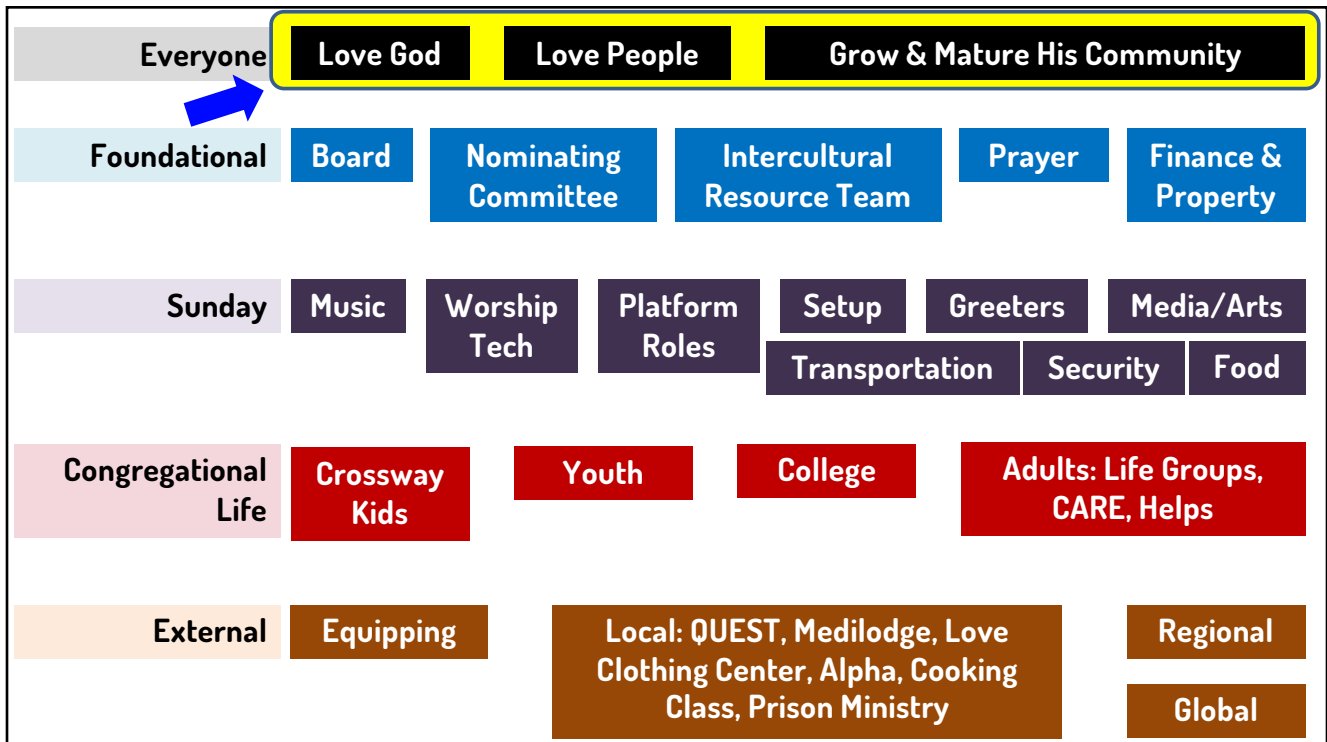
- The work that Christ cares the most about:
  - reconciling all peoples together in Christ and to God for His glory
  - “Welcome and transforming the peoples of all nations to be united in the praise of God in Christ”
- It is every believer’s responsibility and privilege
  - to find, develop, and fully use
  - whatever capacities for service Christ has given
  - by His good design
- to do what Christ cares most about
- every day

21

“...as each one does what Christ has given to each one”

- **What is the same for everyone:**
  - love God: be holy, trust, worship, ...
  - love people: be patient, serve, ...
  - seek to grow and mature His community in the ways of God
- **What is different for different people:**
  - the gifts, abilities, opportunities, and passions that He has given
    - **head:** words, teaching, communicating
    - **heart:** caring, listening, meeting emotional & relational needs
    - **hands:** serving, making, fixing, meeting physical needs
  - Some work looks “Christian”: praying, leading Bible study, ...
  - Some work doesn’t, but still is meant to be when done for God
  - Whether visible and hidden
  - Whether alone, or in small groups, or in large groups

22



23

## What special work has Christ given for you to do?

- Remember: love God, love people, value His community
- Then, in wisdom, explore along with others...
  - What abilities do you have?
  - What do you care about? What concerns you?
  - What opportunities do you have? What needs are near you?
- "Fail fast": try things out, get good feedback, then try again
- Ask to 'shadow' people in what they do
- Invite people to 'shadow' behind you

24

The community of Christians grows and matures into Christ  
as every person does their part every day in love

What is God's vision for His people?

That every single one would  
bring growth and maturity  
and more people  
to God's people

**as each part does its part  
by the Spirit of God**



25

### **To live a life worthy of the God**

In complete humility and gentleness,  
lovingly putting up with each other 😊...

until we are living as one in the peace of God

eagerly and daily doing the work

Christ calls us each and together to do

“to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ”  
by together making one new humanity in fellowship with God

26