

Connected in Growth

Key Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

Main point: Being part of God's spiritual family is not a spectator sport but each are called to a role in the Church.

Key points:

1. As the Church, we gather to grow in the word of God and the Eucharistic presence of the risen Lord. From this place of gathering, we go out to serve.
2. Eph. 4:11-12: the various gifts for the church, called offices, represent the Lord's way to equip, build up, train and deploy members of the church for ministry (meaning service).
3. What are priorities for the "building up of the body of Christ"? part 1: Each person is to come into a personal relationship with Christ, be ground in Christian truth to live the Christian life. Part 2: Leadership in the body of Christ discerns, equips and releases the ministries that the Spirit births through charisms (spiritual gifts). Servanthood is modeled in humility by leadership for the rest of the body. Part 3: Ministry in the church means more than just "performance or outcomes" but to build up brothers and sisters in Christ in love.
4. V. 13-16: Outcome is: unity, spiritual maturity of the members, stability of the body, and focus on its mission: to make disciples of all nations.

Talk it over:

1. What is your favorite sport in which you are a fan? What is it like to be a fan?
2. How is being part of the church different from being a fan?
3. What is the role of spiritual leadership in the Church?
4. What is the role for those who are members of the church?
5. How is "unity" defined in Eph. 4:11-16? When a person serves in the church, what are the outcomes?

Dig deeper:

1. CCC#799-801. The role of charisms (spiritual gifts) in the church.

Scripture memory verse:

1Corinthians 3:11 "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ." 1Corinthians 3:11.