

October 16,2016
Following Jesus: Part 7
Following Jesus Leads to Unity and Maturity in the Church
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1. What are the four things Ted listed that do not measure a healthy church.
(Church health is not measured by the size of the church, the programs of the church, the history of our church, the success of other churches.)
2. What is the only way to find unity among different people? **(Remember Jesus)**
3. How do you make Jesus the center of all your relationships? How does that affect the health of your relationships?
4. Ephesians 4:11 says that Christ himself gave the church “apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers.”
*What did the apostles do and how are they different than the other four groups? **(They knew Jesus in the flesh and their job was to minister cross-culturally in pioneer evangelism.)**
*Which of the groups had the following abilities: **the God-given ability to shepherd people of God to maturity and Christlikeness (Pastors); The God-given ability to effectively communicate good news of the gospel (Evangelists); The God-given ability to correctly communicate the revelation of God (Prophets); The God-given ability to clearly explain and effectively apply the scripture (Teachers).**
5. These leaders were to equip Christ’s church for “works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” So all members of the church are to be ministers. What is your work of service, or what service do you think you’re equipped to do and would like to do?
6. Read Eph. 4:13.
*What are the two things that we need to have unity in so that we can become mature?” **(Unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God).**
*What do we attain as a result of this maturity? **(“The whole measure of the fullness of Christ.)**
*Can you imagine “attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”?
7. Have you ever chosen to love someone who was difficult to love? How did your decision to love change you? Them? The relationship?
8. Paul says in Eph. 4:15 that part of maturity in Christ is “speaking the truth in love.”
*Tell of a time someone spoke the truth to you in love or of a time when someone spoke truth to you but not in a loving way.

*"What is truth," Pilate asked Jesus in his last hours, never guessing that Truth itself stood before him ("I am the way, the truth and the life.") Sometimes people speak "truth," that is not truth. Have you ever experienced turning to Jesus for clarity when you're not sure if someone is really speaking "truth"?

9. Which of these groups most describes you as a member of WHFC or a member of Christ's church in general: You take, but you don't give; You give but you don't receive, You give and receive.

10. Has social media disturbed you during this political season? In what way should love affect the way you think of and speak to others?