

"GOD'S PLAN FOR EBC"

Ephesians 4:11-16

Main Idea: God has made provision for all of us to be strong, healthy parts of Christ's body that are able to authentically and powerfully express Christ and do His will.

Definition of "Church" in the New Testament

The Church Universal

Comprised of all who have put their faith in Jesus and have been reconciled to God by His blood

The Local Church

A local expression of the Universal Church comprised of believers who know each other, meet together regularly, and collectively work together to express the life of Jesus and do the will of Jesus.

A group of believers who have been sovereignly and strategically put together by Jesus Himself for the purpose of expressing His life, accomplishing His will, and advancing His kingdom in its community and beyond.

God's Purpose for the Local Church—Maturity (11-13)

The Role of Leadership (11)

Total Participation (12a)

A Fit, Coordinated Body (12b-13)

Fully Developed

Fully Capable

Maturity is defined by everybody in the church being engaged, being equipped, working together, and functioning in their

The Results of Maturity (14-16)

Spiritual Grown-ups (14-15)

Children no longer (14)

Growing up Into Christ (15)

Fully Functional (16)

Every part interconnected

Every part doing what it is supposed to do