

Equipping the Saints

“And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct] [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God’s people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church].”

Ephesians 4:11-12 AMP

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**Read:**

◆ **Ephesians Chapter 4**

**Check-List for Walking as a Saint of Christ Jesus:** Count your yes’s!

- Are you are walking in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called?
- With all humility and gentleness?
- With patience?
- Bearing with one another in love?
- Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace or building up the body of Christ?
- Until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the

## Equipping the Saints

measure of the fullness of Christ [manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity]. 4:13

✓ So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature].

✓ Not tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] by every wind of [shifting] doctrine and by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit].

✓ Not taken by the cunning and trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit]. 4:14

✓ Speaking the truth in love.

✓ Growing up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ. 4:15

✓ Joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. 4:16

✓ Rejecting all falsehood [whether lying, defrauding, telling half-truths, spreading rumors, any such as these].

✓ Speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are all parts of one another [and we are all parts of the body of Christ]. 4:25

## Equipping the Saints

✓ Being angry [at sin—at immorality, at injustice, at ungodly behavior], yet do not sin; do not let your anger [cause you shame, nor allow it to] last until the sun goes down. 4:26

✓ Do not give the devil an opportunity [to lead you into sin by holding a grudge, or nurturing anger, or harboring resentment, or cultivating bitterness]. 4:27

✓ Do not let unwholesome [foul, profane, worthless, vulgar] words ever come out of your mouth, but only such speech as is good for building up others, according to the need and the occasion, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear [you speak]. 4:29

✓ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [but seek to please Him], by whom you were sealed and marked [branded as God's own] for the day of redemption [the final deliverance from the consequences of sin]. 4:30

✓ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [perpetual animosity, resentment, strife, fault-finding] and slander be put away from you, along with every kind of malice [spitefulness, verbal abuse, malevolence]. 4:31

✓ Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], forgiving one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also forgave you. 4:32

✓ How'd you do? How many yes's? Total possible = 20

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## Sealing Prayer: Equipping the Saints

*“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,  
the shepherds and teachers,  
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ,  
until we all attain to the unity of the faith  
and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,  
to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,  
so that we may no longer be children,  
tossed to and fro by the waves and  
carried about by every wind of doctrine,  
by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.  
Rather, speaking the truth in love,  
we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,  
from whom the whole body, joined and held together  
by every joint with which it is equipped,  
when each part is working properly,  
makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

Ephesians 4:11-16