

Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey
301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-1 Building Great Relationships

LESSON 2: Doing Your Part for Great Relationships

1. Christian Perspectives:

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NIV)

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?

¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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 men in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

¹⁶ 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.

2. Christian Principles:

We need to recognize each others' gifts.

Ephesians 4:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

Romans 12:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NIV)

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

We need to develop our own gifts.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

We need to use the gifts we are given.

Ephesians 4:12 (NIV)

¹² *to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*

Our goal is to be like Christ.

Ephesians 4:12-14 (NIV)

¹² *to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*

¹³ *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.*

¹⁴ *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 men in their deceitful scheming.*

We desperately need each other.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

¹⁶ *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.*

3. Christian Practices:

Discover your personal spiritual gifts by completing the assessment in the Appendix or going online to www.churchgrowth.org/analysis .

Ask 3 people who know you best to give you feedback about the spiritual gifts assessment you complete. Do they agree or do they have other perspectives about you and your gifting.

Think through practical ways to develop and implement the spiritual gifts that God has given you.

4. Discussion Questions:

Continue to wear BOLD NAME TAGS every meeting to help you connect. Reacquaint yourselves with the group by giving updates to the “Prayer Journal” in the Appendix.

Discuss your understanding and perspectives on what a “spiritual gift” includes and does not include. How is it different from natural abilities or talents?

Openly share about what you think your personal spiritual gifts might be and how you hope to use them in your marriage and among family and friends. How can they be used in this small group?

Finalize an on-line or written “Spiritual Gifts Assessment” and share with a spouse or other close friend.

Spend the last 10 minutes praying together over what you are learning that can help with marriage, family and other relationships.