

June 30, 2024

Working Together in Christ

Ephesians 4:11-16

Whenever I start a new endeavor, whether it's a job or a hobby, I learn best when someone shows me what to do. I can read the manual and watch the videos, but if there's someone there to show me step-by-step how to do the thing, it stays with me longer. I like being able to ask questions. I like seeing how the person who came before me learned from the process and tweaked it to make it better. I like being mentored. Having a caring and experienced mentor take me through something new or unfamiliar not only enhances my learning but ensures the knowledge that is handed down continues to spread. It means I have the chance to teach someone else how to add numbers, write a Scripture commentary, or change the oil in a car. Good mentors can make students good mentors, too.

This is what Ephesians says God wants for us. God wants us to grow, learn, and teach one another how to live like Jesus: "His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13). The way God did that is by providing us with spiritual mentors: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, those who are experienced in the faith. As we gain knowledge from those mentors, we are better able to do the work God has laid out ahead of us: "bringing glimmers of God's hope, love, and grace to those who are hopeless, unloved, and forgotten. It is our greatest vocation and our deepest challenge."¹

1. Think of a time when a mentor helped you learn something new. How would it have been different if you hadn't had a person to guide you?
2. What are examples of being a spiritually "mature adult" as described in Ephesians 4:12?
3. How can you act as a spiritual mentor to others?

¹From *Adult Bible Studies*, Summer 2024, by Sue Mink (Cokesbury, 2024); page 51.

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