

**GLORY** #4 Member-Centered  
IN THE CHURCH  
**Ministry**  
**Ephesians 4:11-16**

THE BLUEPRINT FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH

**Ephesians 4:11 (NIV)** *It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> 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.*

<sup>14</sup> *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. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> 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.***

“When things work like they are supposed to,  
it’s a beautiful thing”

**Key Concepts...**

- A. PRIMARY SOURCE:
- B. HEALTHY INTERDEPENDENCE:
- C. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:
- D. SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH:
- E. CHRIST-LIKE LOVE:
- F. “MEMBER-CENTERED” MINISTRY:

“PASTOR-CENTERED” MINISTRY	“MEMBER-CENTERED” MINISTRY
Pastor(s) do most ministering	Members do most ministering
Members watch pastors minister	Pastor(s) train and empower members to minister
Traditional pattern – Mark 7:1-13	Biblical pattern – Eph. 4:11-16
Pastor(s) need to be multi-gifted and/or numerous for the church to thrive	Members need to be multi-gifted for the church to thrive... <i>and they are!</i>
<i>Limited by:</i> a. the ability, gifts, energy, presence of the pastor(s) b. the number of pastors on staff	<i>Limited by:</i> a. pastor(s) commitment to train b. members’ willingness to be trained c. members’ willingness to accept ministry from other members
<i>Results:</i> <u>Short-term:</u> good, if pastor is talented, dynamic, gifted <u>Long-range:</u> devastating -pastoral burn-out, family fall-out, frustration, pride>fall -members stay immature, unstable, and unfulfilled -church becomes unstable and limited in growth	<i>Results:</i> <u>Short-term:</u> unimpressive – it takes time to train ministers <u>Long-range:</u> great! -pastoral vitality, fulfillment, humility -members’ maturity, stability, fulfillment -church stability and unlimited growth potential!

Member-Centered Ministry “Mindshift”

- A. Pastors must put greater priority on training and empowering **MEMBERS** to minister
- B. Pastors must not allow members to push them to do ministry that members are called to do and may be better **EQUIPPED** for
- C. Members must step up and receive more **TRAINING** to minister
- D. Members must assume more responsibility for ministering to **EACH OTHER**
- E. Members must learn to accept ministry from each other and not just from **PASTORS** – “*That counts!*”