

Handout February 6, 2026

**The Whole Body
Ephesians 4:11-16**

Welcome back and here we go. Tonight, we celebrate each other. Not all messages need to be so serious Tom! Well actually they do, but some are certainly more edifying for growth in service, meaning it is okay to be encouraged in your service.

Ephesians 4:11-16 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

1) The _____ of the _____!

Obviously, there is a lot more to these verses, but I need to pause here..... our founding verses. That's what we do here ---- equip. How? Through opportunities. It is called LIVING FAITH. Teaching is primary and this is one of our central beliefs.

Ephesians 4:15 2) Speaking the _____ in _____.

I would like to do that now, by saying thank you. When we come together we are amazing. Our little project at the new location is so amazing. Each person is doing their share. Soon, we will be enjoying new digs. Everyone has their part in this though. Whether it is prayer, finances, physical work, or just believing in us! Thank you.

Ephesians 4:16 3) _____ body, _____ and _____ together.

It is the Spirit of the Christ, the Holy Spirit, that unites us as one. No matter what we are doing...

I Corinthians 12:20-27 *But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

4) We _____ and we _____ together.

Helping move Barbara into her and Stacey's new home--there was a little of both. We have always managed to create connections where people love one another, in laughter and in suffering.

Remember, as the Body of Christ, everyone is important. We each have a role. We each connect with who God intended here. Our love for one another shines, outside of the projects. That is because we are a Living Spiritual Organism and we are uniquely connected as a local body. Thank you.

Ephesians 4:1-7 *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

5) _____ was given.

In that grace you were given a spiritual gift, as the second half of the chapter alludes to. Hmm, am I usually backwards..... Listen to the words.... "walk worthy of your calling.."

6) _____ to keep the _____ of the _____.

Romans 12:3-8 *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

We all have abilities to add, whether with a poem, helping someone with grief, cooking, singing, swinging a hammer, being a super model "me", speaking.... (don't get me started on the Speaker Series)... , writing essays for Discipleship class, attending classes, moving stuff, doing visitations..... Seriously so much! But the most important thing is loving God, loving one another, loving those outside.

Romans 12:9-18 *⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient^l in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

Thank you for allowing me to lead you in doctrine, fellowship and service. I love you.