



Sabbath Message - *The Law of Design.* *Every Member is a Minister*

Key Verse/s:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:11-12 KJV)

Responsive Reading: 1Peter 2:4; Romans 12:3-5, Preaching Portion: Ephesians 4:11-14

Definition: The aim is **MATURITY**: *fully developed physically; full-grown.*

A. INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVE

What are the marks of a believer who is growing in spiritual maturity? How do I know I am growing spiritually? *Philippians 1:9-10*

1. **A**bounding Love (Agape) *Philippians 1:9a*
2. **G**rowing Knowledge (Wisdom) *Philippians 1:9b*
3. **E**ngender (produce and express) Spiritual Discernment *Philippians 1:10*

“The believers in the body need to show “A.G.E” Spiritually as they age physically”

B. CONGREGATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

What are the marks of a Church growing in spiritual maturity? How does the body know there is growth spiritually?

OBJECTIVE: *Growing churches empower leaders to equip the saints and expect every member to function as a minister.*

GOD’S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH:

1. *Leaders are equippers. (see.....Ephesians 4:11-16)*
2. *Members are ministers. (see.....1 Peter 2:4)*
3. *No one ministers alone. (see.....Romans 12)*

C. PLAN, DESIGN, IMPLEMENT...A MINISTRY’S GOAL AND IDENTITY

Ministries have to be:

1. *Team Structured (see.....Romans 12:3-5)*

Birthing a ministry team:

- **Seek** God’s direction and confirmation for ministry.
- Take time to **Pray** about it with help from others who share the interest or concern

- **Envision** what the ministry might look like as a team
- **Develop** an Action Plan for the ministries goals and sustenance
- The team can then **Present** the summary to the Pastor/Leadership.

2. Gift-based (see.....Romans 12:6-8)

3. Love driven (see.....Romans 12:9-13)

Remember

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React

- *Pastors/Leaders must change their view of themselves and their congregations’ expectations of them. The pastor’s perception of this job must change from “I pastor everyone” to “I make sure everyone gets pastored.”*
- *Ministries are born out of gifts when God’s design is followed.*
- *Ongoing training, modeling, and development of lay people are the keys to a Successful Ephesians 4 church.*

Churches that do not equip the saints to do the work of the ministry will almost always stay below two hundred members. It is impossible for a solo pastor to minister to more than about 125 people effectively and usually it is in the area of about 75-80. Major church growth can never happen unless God’s design is followed.

