

God's Design for the Life & Longevity of the Church

Ephesians 4:11-13

Read Ephesians 4:1-13

The three short verses of Ephesians 4:11-13 provide a description of the role that a child of God can play in building up the local church. The church is God's idea, but He also decided to use you and me to bring about its growth to maturity. In other words, He wants us to share in the journey of helping each other to become more like Christ, and to bring more and more followers of Jesus along with us. Let's consider the role that God wants us to play.

Previous Expectations

- In your experience in the local church, who did you think was responsible for the growth of the church?
- In your experience in the local church, what have you expected church leaders to do?
- Why is the Pareto principle (20% produces 80% of the results) insufficient as a law of distribution in the church?

God's Design

- After examining these verses, how would you describe why Jesus put leaders in the church?
- Who is responsible for the growth of the church:
 - leaders?
 - everyone except the leaders?
 - both?
- If we embrace our role in building up the church, how much hope should we have for our church both now and in the future?
- Do we need to be ready (prepared) before we can serve? Or should we serve even though we do not think that we are ready?

Our Response

- When you think about how God designed His church, how does God feel about the church?
- How much potential does God see in His sons and daughters?
- Think about the three parts that are involved in God's work: their part, God's part, and your part. You are only responsible for your part. Since you know that God is faithful to do His part, what God is asking you to do right now for the IBC Hamburg family?