**Built Up in Love**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Ephesians 4:11-16

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

(Ephesians 4:15-16, ESV)

**Introduction**

Building our lives upon anything less than the Person and Message of Jesus Christ is like the proverbial house on shifting sand. While we may feel like we’re living in a Postmodern or even post-Christian cultural moment, a time or season when everyone’s lived experience is being substituted for absolute or even historical truth, the Word and Spirit of God continue to testify that Jesus Christ remains the Way and the Truth and the Life. Because God is love and the Spirit of God serves to bind us together in peace, expressing relational joy through speaking the truth in love with one another is essential.

**1. People are gifted to equip others and not just do the work. (Ephesians 4:11-12)**

 a) God’s grace is manifested in a diversity of gifts, callings, and capacities.

 b) Recognizing the “five-fold ministries” or “offices” on the Multiplication Bridge.

**2. God’s plan and strategy until Christ’s return. (Ephesians 4:13-14)**

 a) Unity and maturity require much more than what any pastor can do.

 b) The five-fold ministries are God’s plan for the now and not-yet before Christ’s return.

**3. That we might all build one another up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)**

 a) Who is the Head of the Church and what does this mean?

 b) How do these joints and parts of the Body of Christ best work and grow?

**Conclusion**

When I consider that the apostle Paul wrote this letter while under house arrest awaiting his execution, it almost seems that the Holy Spirit was both answering Paul’s questions and responding to his concerns about the future of the small circles of disciples he had helped begin around the Roman Empire. While most human succession plans are about the search for an individual replacement or the survival of the institution, God’s power, love, and faithfulness focuses instead on helping each person to function and grow to maturity in love. Where are you in your recognition of calling, gifting, and maturity? Who and what might be next for you in God’s plan?

**For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

1) Practice quieting and CAKE and have someone share a testimony of escaping “enemy mode.”

2) Share one thing that stood out for you from today’s worship, scripture passage, or sermon.

3) Please share any concerns or needs you may have and pray for one another.

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