

* Missions Conference (Feb. 3–5)
* Constitution & By-laws Q&A (Feb. 8 @ 6:30 p.m.)
* Children’s Ministry volunteer training (Feb. 12 or 19 @ 9 a.m.)
* Starting Pointe membership class (Feb. 24–26)

**Announce**

**Pray**

Together: Praise God for the gifts that Christ has given to the people of CrossPointe to grow his people in unity (verses 1­–10) and maturity (verses 11–16).

Alone: Ask God to help you find your role at CrossPointe and strengthen you to serve in this role. Pray for the life issues of the people in the group, as well as for the leadership of CrossPointe Church.

* What are you doing to serve your Christian brothers and sisters in the church and build them up? How are you making sure you are prepared and equipped for that service? Think and pray about changes you may need to make in order to get involved with God’s people as he intends you to be.

**Turn to God**

**in Faith and Repentance**

**Live & Apply**

**God’s Word**

* What do we learn about the purpose of spiritual gifts in verses 12–16?
* In what ways do you think God has gifted you?
* How could you use your gifts to build up this local body of Christ we call CrossPointe?
* Many Christians today can be characterized as “children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” (verse 14). What happens if a church’s leadership (particularly elders) is characterized by this? What, then, is the importance of selecting and affirming the right elders?
* The church grows by truth and love. Why is it detrimental to focus on truth to the exclusion of love, and vice versa? Have you been in churches like this? Why is it so important that, as a church, we “speak the truth in love” (verse 15) to one another?

**Notes**

**Read Ephesians 4:11–16**

* What responsibility to each other does Paul highlight in verses 12–13 (see also verse 16)?
* What goal is in view in verses 13–16? How will we know that the goal is being achieved (verses 14–15)?
* What has Christ given to the church to bring this about (verse 11)?

**Understand**

**God’s Word**

**Passage Overview**

The big idea of Ephesians 4 is that the people of Christ’s new community, the church, are given gifts by him to prepare all believers for works of service, so that the church can be built up into the unity of the Spirit and into maturity that displays the fullness of Christ. Paul highlights two responsibilities of every believer. One is that we must make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit (verses 1–10). The other is that we are to use the gifts given to the church by Christ to be equipped to serve one another so that the body of Christ can be built up (verses 11–16). Growth in maturity is not a personal, private project of each Christian. God’s primary plan for spiritual growth is our involvement in acts of service that will build up the church. In God’s plan we are to be *providers* of spiritual help and encouragement, not *consumers* who go into the spiritual marketplace looking for solutions to our private needs. Christ provides the church with leaders (verse 11) who use God’s Word to teach and equip us. It’s then our responsibility to serve and encourage one another.

Ephesians 4:11–16

Week of Jan. 29, 2012

**Discussion Guide**