

We are called to influence the body of Christ and each of us has a role to play.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NLT) - Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

How do we live a life of influence and help the church grow, be healthy and full of love?

1. **INQUIRE** – Ask God where He needs you, how can I help the body of Christ grow?
2. **LISTEN** – Expect an answer.
3. **BE FAITHFUL** – Respond with action, in faith.

Study Guide

1. Who in the body of Christ has had some influence on you this past year and why? Share some stories of regular faithfulness that has had influence on you.

Time to make it personal!

2. What are some of the things or thoughts or fears that have held you back from being more of an influence in the church?
3. **INQUIRE:** Instead of asking God 'where do I fit in?' - ask: 'Jesus, where do You need me right now?'
4. **LISTEN:** Be ready for direction. You may be doing exactly what He has called you to already or perhaps you need to lay aside something, make a sacrifice, even do something that isn't your favourite thing. You may get an idea that requires more initiative and leadership. Trust the answer and that He will equip you in all ways.
5. Write down what you heard and talk to someone about it. Accountability helps us all follow through.
6. **BE FAITHFUL:** Respond in obedience. Do something about it. Even if you are unsure or you think it's insignificant, follow through.