SERMON NOTES

IMMANUEL CHURCH

YOUR PART MATTERS: Passing It On

Ephesians 4:11-16

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OVERVIEW

Spiritual growth and personal formation rarely happen in isolation; they occur when individuals take the time to invest in others, often in simple, everyday ways (e.g., parents, camp leaders, pastors, coaches).

1. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Equipping the Church: Spiritual gifts and church leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) are given to equip believers for ministry, not to do all the work themselves.

True Goal is Maturity: Growth is measured not by how many gifted people a church has or how much information is consumed, but by believers becoming mature and conforming to the character of Christ.

2. Defining Biblical Maturity

Character Over Knowledge: While Scripture and theology are vital, biblical maturity shows up in real-life character, how we treat others, forgive, speak truth in love, handle disappointment, receive correction, and respond to conflict.

Relational & Embodied: Maturity must be seen in action. People learn far more by observing how we live, react, and handle mistakes than by verbal instruction alone.

3. The Shift from Receiver to Investor

Passing the Torch: Spiritual maturity involves moving from being the person receiving investment to actively investing in someone else.

Relatability over Perfection: You do not need to be perfect or have everything figured out to help someone grow; you simply need to walk alongside them and share what you've learned.

Relational Discipleship: Discipleship is rarely a formal program; it happens through open conversations, prayer, serving together, and honest discussions about faith and doubt.

5. Equipping & Releasing Others

Giving Opportunities: Growth requires handing over responsibilities and allowing others to try, serve, and lead, even if they make mistakes along the way.

Church Health: A healthy church is measured by believers taking ownership of their gifts, stepping into their calling, and helping others do the same.

QUESTIONS

Use for community group discussion or personal reflection

GO DEEPER

1. Who is someone who helped you grow in your faith? How did they help you grow?
2. Ephesians 4 highlights that the goal of spiritual maturity is not merely the accumulation of biblical knowledge, but Christlikeness. How does this distinction change how we evaluate spiritual growth?
3. How would you describe the difference between a church that is full of gifted people and a church that is full of mature people?
4. How does verse 16 describe the relationship between individual believers and the whole church?
5. What are some ways we can unintentionally become consumers at church rather than participants?

MOVE FORWARD

1. The goal of discipling others is helping them reflect Jesus, not adopting our personal preferences or stances. How can we guard against trying to form people into copies of ourselves?
2. Discipleship is often less about formal curriculum and more about ordinary life—conversations over coffee, serving together, or being transparent about struggles. Who might God be asking you to invest in more intentionally?
3. Are there areas where you might need to step back and give someone else an opportunity to grow?
4. Conversely, is there an area where you may need to step forward and take ownership of your gifts?