

YOUR PLACE in the BODY of CHRIST

Pastor Dick Tennesen, Feb. 15, 2004, Redwood Christian Center, Felton, CA

Ephesians 4:11-16 – INTRODUCTION:

Core Value #6: The Church: All true believers, born-again by faith in Jesus Christ, are the Church of Jesus Christ, bought by His work on the Cross, commissioned by Him to continue His work, and empowered for service by the Holy Spirit. The local church is commissioned to reach the lost, exercise their gifts, be shepherded, and grow in Christlikeness, until that day when He calls Her home, as His eternal Bride. _____

First, we have GOOD NEWS -- Jesus has given us

I. GIFTS, vv. 11,12 – This is the list I call **MINISTRY GIFTS**. These are leadership gifts, but I want you to put yourself in this picture! _____

•**APOSTLE**, means “sent one” _____

•**PROPHET**, spokes-person for God _____

•**EVANGELIST**, good news proclaimer _____

•**PASTOR**, shepherd, to feed _____

•**TEACHER**, someone gifted to convey truth to others _____

God has an **OBJECTIVE** in mind when He bestows gifts, so there are

II. GOALS, vv. 13,14

A. POSITIVE PURPOSES of God’s ministry gifts:

• “Unity of the faith” _____

• “Knowledge of the Son of God” _____

• II Peter 3:18 _____

B. The NEGATIVE PITFALL POSSIBILITIES we are to **AVOID**:

• “no longer children” _____

• “tossed to and fro...” _____

• “by the trickery of men...” _____

If we do our part, God does His part, and the Body

III. GROWS, vv. 15,16

One of the most common concepts in the New Testament, growth.

Look at the apostle’s four reflections on growth:

1. “joined and knit together” _____

2. “by what every joint supplies” _____

3. “according to the effective working” _____

4. “by which every part does its share” _____

CONCLUSION: If God has put you in His Body, He desires you to be an effective part, and is able to bring you to fruitfulness!