



# **Equip**

**prepared to serve together**

**Sunday, October 25, 2009**  
**Week #2**  
**“Muscular Church”**



Last week we discovered the “mystery of Christ”. One of the amazing things that Jesus’ sacrifice for us on the cross accomplished was the development of new relationship for those of us who are followers of Jesus. We are now part of the body of Christ and as such in an interdependent relationship with other followers of Jesus. Our spiritual maturity is not purely a “me and God” thing it is very much an “us and God” journey.

This week we continue to consider what our spiritual maturity together looks like and how we achieve this together. If we are going to be “muscular” we need to understand that we are all vital to this process. God grows us through Christ and he uses each of us to accomplish the work of Jesus Christ in all of us and through all of us.

You are loved,



Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and in your own words describe what the Apostle Paul says is a “muscular church”, a church that is built up.

Notes



## Prayer Matters

If you were asked to give an evaluation on whether a church was progressing in becoming more and more like Jesus what would you look for? What questions would you ask?

## For Next Week

Consider this question in preparation for next week,

*“What is involved in becoming prepared for “works of service”?”*

Ephesians 4:15-16 indicates that being connected to Jesus and to one another is key to becoming “built up”. It is amazing that God has chosen to “build us up in love” as we are connected to Christ and to one another by each of us “doing its work”.

What does it mean to you to know that you are an integral part of the process of OBC becoming a “muscular church”?



Ephesians 4:7 and 4:12 describes the process by which each of us makes a difference in “building up the body of Christ”. Gifts, Preparation, and Ministry is what is required.

What spiritual gifts do you have that if used effectively would help mature this home group?

What spiritual gifts do you believe need to be expressed by others in your life to help you become more mature in Christ?

#### Read One Man’s Testimony

Before I attended Seminary, I was a businessman running my own business making and selling widgets to different companies. The first few years took a lot of my time to get things going but I found that as time went on I was more and more interested in serving God and being more involved at the church.

I began to wonder what I was actually doing with my life. I became gripped with the fact that my whole life was given to a business that made and sold widgets. I wondered about what difference this was making for eternity. What I did seemed meaningless in the grand scheme of things. I wanted more and more to move beyond being involved in “part-time” ministry at the church to being involved in ministry all the time.

So I sold my business because I became convinced that making and selling widgets kept me from the work that really makes a difference for God. I gave my life to do the work that really counts and today I am serving God in overseas missions preaching God’s Word and helping local farmers sell their produce and make a living for themselves while supporting local church planters.

How do you respond to this kind of view of “ministry”? What advice would you give someone who was considering making a change like this in their life?

What are the implications of thinking of “church” as both “gathered together” and “dispersed”? What does it mean for your life ?

What are the obstacles you face of seeing your entire life as one in which you are using your gifts in works of service for others?

