



Equip

prepared to serve together

Sunday, November 1, 2009

Week #3

“Expectations”



There is something very affirming in knowing that Jesus has chosen to use each of us to produce spiritual maturity in us, together. Last week we called that “muscular church”. If you are a follower of Jesus you have been given gifts by Jesus for the purpose of serving others. Sometimes we think of “serving others” as only something we do when we come to the church. But in reality serving others (ministry) includes the relationships we have when we are together and when we are apart. We are the church wherever we are.

Our whole life is an opportunity for ministry.

This week we will look more closely at how we are made fit or prepared for serving others. Remember this is important because our spiritual maturity is at stake and the power of the gospel in our lives is being examined.

You are loved,



Ephesians 3:6 tells us that we have become “members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus” through Jesus death for us. Should you have low expectations or high expectations with reference to your relationships with other followers of Jesus? What should you expect?

Notes



What is appropriate for all followers of Jesus who are part of OBC to expect of one another?

How do you deal with not having your expectations met?

Prayer Matters

Jesus has a plan for how we do life together. Read Ephesians 4:7-12 and in your own words describe the plan.



Why do you think we have a tendency to look at members of the “clergy” as professional ministers? Why is that a problem? Take a look at 1 Peter 2:9 for some clues.

How do you balance having “respect” for someone without “elevating” them?

The Apostle Paul identifies the “equippers” as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Pastors and Teachers. There are many different interpretations as to who these groups of people are. The key elements are to remember that the common denominator is that each use the Word of God in making others fit for their ministry.

As you consider our church who do you think would fit into our description of an “equipper”?

Your ministry includes serving others when we are together and when we are apart. We are the church wherever we are. Being equipped or prepared for ministry involves receiving the instruction and application of God’s Word in your life, accountability, all in the context of relationship.

Think of the different areas of life in which you are potentially doing ministry (together and apart - home group, serving children at church, work, home, etc.). How would you envision the process of being “equipped” (equippers preparing you for ministry) working best for you?

What do you think we should be expecting from the “equippers” in our church? What, then, should we not be expecting of them? Why do you think it is important that we expect nothing less than equipping from equippers and likewise nothing more?

